

1066 and all that . . .

If it is true, as an Historical Association meeting was told last week-end (page 6), that by the age of 14, half the pupils in English schools have stopped studying the history of their own or any other country, does it matter? Should it occasion a sharp intake of breath? Should it be seen as yet another argument in favour of a prescribed core for the full length of the compulsory school period? Or is it enough to note that a pupil has "done" history (in one form or another) for nine years by the time he or she is 14 and if the spark of interest needed to ignite a volunteer has not been struck by then, there is not much point in a longer period of conscription?

The place of history in the school curriculum is coming under discussion for several reasons. Sir Keith Joseph has put down a marker for the traditional view of national history (see page 32) and the right of every school boy and school girl to be introduced to the story of the nation's past and unfolding present. History is about understanding concepts of cause and consequence and continuity; about the imaginative ability to think about the past without relapsing into anachronism. National, not nationalist, history teaching also has a great deal to do with the search for identity and values; it is tied up with national pride and self-confidence and that sense of social cohesion which depends, in part at least, on a primitive belief that to be British is to be the legate of greatness.

It is only necessary to outline such a justification of history as a school subject to let loose the critical objections. What sort of identity? Whose values?

What if national pride is misplaced? How can social cohesion be enhanced by elevating the British tradition in a multi-ethnic society?

These are fundamental questions – not only about the teaching of history, but also about Britain. A confident national self-image is one of the defences against demagoguery at one extreme and blind depression at the other: how can this be achieved without some shared assumptions about who we are and what we stand for? It is tempting to say that by the time people begin to ask this question it may be too late: but it is an academic and political temptation to exaggerate the divisions and to elevate the arts of criticism over the rites of celebration. Sir Keith is right to draw attention to these issues: if history is dead, nostalgia is all that is left, the ultimate debilitation of a lost past.

There is a second reason why the place of history in the curriculum has been called in question. One response to doubts about the content of historical study has been to concentrate attention on methodology and skills. The study of history can be equated with the critical examination of evidence and the use of deductive and inductive reasoning to make judgments on such evidence. The craft and the science of historiography can be brought into the classroom – within fairly obvious limits – and, without pretending that the study of history is vocational preparation for professional historians, the aim of the exercise can nevertheless be expressed in terms of the historian's attitude to evidence, and criticism of materials. Such an approach has strong

support: teachers can show how pupils can benefit by the intellectual rigour and discernment which it demands. They may even be right in thinking it fosters multi-purpose skills which can be transferred to other tasks as necessary. Recent gains in this direction must not be thrown away.

What stands out in the discussion, however, is the difference in fundamental objectives between those who see history as a principal ingredient in the formation of a citizen's concept of his country, past and present, and those who see it as a whetstone on which to sharpen critical faculties and powers of reasoning. In the present curriculum debate, Sir Keith has insisted that the objectives should be open to the widest discussion and not be the preserve of the professionals. The argument about content of skills is an argument about objectives and in this, Sir Keith is coming down against the professionals. There is every reason to think "most right-thinking people" – that abstraction once beloved by leader-writers – would share his view. The content of history is important: professionalism is not enough – indeed it could be that the professionalization of history is one of the reasons why it has been in danger of being squeezed out of the core.

Sir Keith's role as Secretary of State and arbiter of the examination system makes his contribution to the discussion of special importance. It would be deplorable if these matters should ever have to be decided by him, but many people will sympathize with the view he is expressing.

COMMENT

Wooing the middle class

This week has turned up another batch of born-again grammar school stories. With councillors in Wiltshire and Berkshire intent not just on maintaining selection in Reading and Salisbury, but getting it back into the comprehensive counties.

Most of the evidence so far, however, is that only a handful of Conservative councillors is in what might be described as the Bob Dunn-Stuart-Sutton set; and, as in Solihull, Redbridge and Richmond before them, it seems they are meeting unexpectedly strong resistance both from political colleagues and from their natural constituency amongst the local parents.

Could it be that both Sir Keith Joseph's junior minister, Mr Dunn, and his political adviser have backed a loser by plugging to much political energy into this particular aspect of the parental choice issue?

Certainly Sir Keith himself is far more equivocal about committing himself to this sort of selective scheme. Questioned recently by Brian Walden on London Weekend Television's *Weekend World*, he said he thought comprehensive education had gone ahead too rapidly, and that he would consider on its merits any proposal that a local education authority put forward to reintroduce the grammar school system. But he only allowed himself to be pressed so far along that particular road, before returning to what he now apparently perceives as the more appropriate issue: "If it be so, as it is, that selection as between schools is largely out," he told Mr Walden and the viewing public, "then I emphasize that there must be differentiation within schools."

What he then went on to say about the pendulum swinging back from mixed ability teaching to setting may raise all sorts of queries about his plans for a common core and criterion referencing for all, but it will have struck plenty of chords with his middle-class audience. And struck them with a harder touch than the denunciations

and a handful of rogue councillors have so far produced.

For the reality now, as Mrs Anne Sofer of the SDP succinctly pointed out in her *Times* column on Monday, is that middle-class families are overwhelmingly committed to the state system and that most of their children are in comprehensives.

Elementary statistics prove that only a small proportion of middle-class parents use independent schools. Most middle-class parents have a vested interest in wanting comprehensives to work well, and a corresponding disinclination to see everything torn up again for yet another round of reorganization.

What is more, they have put behind them the agonies of the 11-plus, which always rejected more children than it selected, and it is probably fair to say that they have found self-selection by neighbourhood far more congenial.

Leftist London

The left-wing have consolidated their position in the Inner London Teachers' Association, the London branch of the NUT (page 8). Last year Mr Richard Rieger, of the NUT in Hackney, displaced the familiar establishment figure of Mr Bob Richardson as general secretary of ILTA, and has now registered a second victory, with an increased majority. Other left-wing members of the Socialist Teachers' Alliance, held on to the treasurer's and vice-presidency.

There always has been a strong left-wing minority in the NUT and the union's leadership has fought a running – and on the whole – successful battle with it over the years. But it must be something of an embarrassment for Mr Fred Jarvis, the general secretary, and Mr Don Winters, the president, that Bob Richardson, has failed to regain control of ILTA. As chairman of the NUT's action committee, Richardson is going to be a key figure in coming months when it begins to look as if the union will face a crisis as one local association after another is confronted by I.A.s demands for staff cuts. The latest turn of events in the NUT's internal politics, however, is a far cry from the



ILEA on the march

come as a severe shock, a foretaste, perhaps, of worse things to come when the Department of the Environment gets its rate-capping powers.

In London it would be an illusion to suppose that a left-wing ILTA gets on well with a left-wing ILEA. As London prepares for its imminent crash, Mr Rieger and his colleagues can claim a mandate for a resolute no-cuts campaign. But fewer than 30 per cent of ILTA members voted in the election, and not much more than about 15 per cent for Mr Rieger. And it is one thing to mouth big words about lighting the Government now, something else when the chips are down.

Parents who contract out

The rapid growth in recent years of the deschoolers' support group, Education Otherwise (see page 20), and the involvement in this movement of a number of teachers is not as startling as it may seem at first sight. Parents who choose to educate their children at home are only a minute proportion of the population, though the success which some have achieved has been enough to convince local education authorities, which, formerly disoriented and ill-at-ease, have now begun to

though it may be expensive to inspect.

That – on some estimates – about a quarter of the parents involved are teachers or ex-teachers may smack of disloyalty to colleagues and even double standards, but it is hardly surprising: they have the competence and skills and are more aware of the limited amount of individual attention the average class teacher can offer. If parents are to have the freedom to choose, what they consider best for their own children, on what grounds should those parents who happen to be teachers be an exception?

It is the rapid growth of Education Otherwise rather than its size which makes it significant. It could be seen as the tip of a much larger iceberg of increasing expectations on the part of parents that they should be more involved in their children's education: an expectation related to that desire for more individual attention and one at present more widely exploited by the suppliers of allegedly "educational" toys and books than by schools.

Further evidence was produced this week (see page 10) of the inadequate response of most primary schools to the well-documented all-round educational gains produced when teachers go out of their way to encourage parents to help their children read at home.

The more rapid spread of computers – more rapid in the home than the school – and the probable development in the future of more and better educational software could further weaken what for a century or so has been a more or less automatic assumption that children have to go to school. The development, in turn, could have the effect of making schools even more conscious of the kind of market forces which increase the choice and power of some of their customers and limit that of others.

no comment

And in the Commons, MPs cheered when the news of the gold medal was announced by Social Security Minister of State Dr Rhodes Boyson as he wound up a debate. "I do think even housing benefits are put into perspective on occasions like this," he said.

Second opinion

A tertiary mission to unite

The TES leader (February 3) in its reflection on the impact upon tertiary colleges of the plans outlined in a White Paper – *Training For Jobs* – Tertiary colleges, by their nature, by their intention, seek to unite a variety of disciplines and not to disintegrate. The colleges increase the opportunities for young people in a variety of courses to work together and learn from each other. Any arrangement which sorted students into discrete categories would damage the tertiary principle.

The post-compulsory sector is already bedevilled by the special distinction between training and education, between vocational and non-vocational. The only real definition of training which separates it from education is that, for 16 to 19-year-olds, the first carries a fee while the second does not. The White Paper apparently classes GCE work as non-vocational, and therefore, outside the range of the Manpower Services Commission's clutch. Is it possible to maintain an argument that would be doctors, lawyers or teachers are not following a vocational course if they are studying GCE A levels? Do the same employers who require GCE qualifications of applicants regard the achievement of acceptable grades as a vocational importance? What, then, is the origin of the 25 per cent figure which represents that part of non-advanced further education thought suitable for MSC funding?

There are already instances of students following very similar courses being subject to widely different financial arrangements, which will receive £25 per person per week, the other group nothing. Now we are faced with the prospect of further anomalous distinctions: MSC support for MSC students, of proven and unproven worth, perhaps even trivial and frivolous. That, too, would undermine the ability of tertiary colleges to establish a comprehensive curriculum.

The implicit and explicit criticism of the FE sector embodied in the report that we have not developed sufficiently close contacts with employers so as to allow relevant training and education to produce the work-force they require. If we accept for the moment the counter claims of success by the MSC are, at best, unproven, for neither the TOPS, nor the Youth Training Scheme programmes have, despite local triumphs, been unchallengeable as job-securing winners. It would be unfair to write off the FE sector's contribution so summarily.

Accrington and Rossendale College, with the help of a DES-funded Pickup scheme, is currently investigating the effectiveness of the existing college/employer links which may well be complemented by further research under the College Employer Link Project (CELP). The White Paper appears to have emptied the conclusions before we get one quarter way through the year-long survey.

Tertiary colleges have established a reputation for academic excellence: they have also gained a disproportionate number of the early Open Two contracts; they also have an excellent record for finding employment for their leavers. If our relations with employers are as poor as the White Paper suggests, if we cannot identify and meet the needs of industry and commerce, if we do not discuss with them and take note of what they say, how is it that in this depressed area, with unemployment well above the national average, we have in each of the past three years placed some 40 per cent of our full-time leavers in a job or higher education?

Michael Austin is principal of Accrington and Rossendale College, Lancashire.

NEWS

Tories brave party fury to rebel in selection vote

by Biddy Passmore

The question of selection is making Conservative fly in Wiltshire, where eight councillors, including the chairman of the education committee, have been threatened with expulsion from the Tory group because they voted against a motion to allow selection to continue in the city of Salisbury.

Sir Anthony Howard, chairman of the group, asked the eight for an assurance that they would toe the party line in future. But it is believed that none had given that assurance by the deadline at the end of last week.

An issue in the continued existence of Wiltshire's last two grammar schools, Bishop Wordsworth Boys' and South Wiltshire Girls', in East Salisbury. The county put up a scheme to abolish them as part of a secondary reorganization scheme but it was rejected last April by Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary. His reasons were the academic excellence of the two schools, the degree of parental opposition, and cost.

Conservative leaders on the council tried last November to amend the county's policy, which has been pro-comprehensive since 1964, so that it exempted Salisbury. But the move was opposed by the eight Conservatives, who include not only Mrs Joan Main, chairman of the education committee, but also the chairman of the schools

and further education subcommittees, who joined forces with Labour and Liberal councillors to defeat it.

Mrs Main was not prepared this week to comment on Sir Anthony's letter, beyond saying that she had never been anything other than a Conservative and that she was a representative, not a delegate.

She pointed out that the vote in the council had taken place the day before she and other councillors were due to meet the Education Secretary to discuss Salisbury schools. She had therefore thought it "premature and discourteous". She also emphasized that the county's pro-comprehensive policy had been reaffirmed several times in recent years.

Mrs Main is chairing a working party on the future of the schools in East Salisbury and Downtown, where rolls are expected to fall by more than one fifth by the end of the decade. She said it was too early yet to say what the outcome would be but that she had "a completely open mind".

The county would consult the parents of the children who would be affected on any scheme. Previous petitions had included "a large number of grandmas, grandpas and those over the border", she said. Selection has also stirred up a hornet's nest in Conservative-controlled

Berkshire. A plan by council leaders to throw open some of the places on the two remaining grammar schools in Reading to a whole county has aroused vociferous opposition from local parents and school governing bodies.

Although the number of places involved is small – 30 for girls and only 10 for boys – they feel that well-established comprehensives in the areas around Reading will suffer from the loss of their ablest pupils. "It's being done solely to protect the grammar schools from falling rolls", Mrs Judy Sharpe, of the Berkshire Schools Action Committee, said.

In fact, the county council decided early last year to extend the catchment areas for some places at the two schools and then decided to consult school governing bodies simply on the mechanism for selecting pupils. But they have received an angry response to the principle of the scheme, which has perplexed council leaders. More than two-thirds of governing bodies voted against it.

Mr William Stansfield-Taylor, chairman of the education committee, seemed unmoved by the suggestion that earlier consultation might have averted some of the attacks. "Hindsight is a marvellous thing", he said.

Sir Keith offered tenure compromise

by Ngalo Crequer

Vice-chancellors are considering a package of proposals on university teachers' conditions which they will offer to the Government if it drops its attempt to abolish tenure.

Ideas being considered by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals include: extending the probationary period to five years; making tenure more difficult to achieve, extending short-term contracts; reducing the retirement age to 60 (with the right to extend it in some cases).

The vice-chancellors have, however, told Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, that if tenure is regarded as a "sacred cow" then nothing can be done.

Several weeks ago Sir Keith asked for a progress report on the CVC model guidelines on tenure which they gave to universities two years ago. The universities have made little response. The CVC has also told Sir Keith it estimates that about 50 per cent of universities have "copper-bottom" tenure.

The vice-chancellors will be discussing the matter again with him in a few weeks, but yesterday they saw him to discuss their proposal for an efficiency survey of the universities.

The survey would look at support services and administration purchasing but not academic matters. Under the CVC scheme a steering committee with an independent chairman would be set up. A number of universities would volunteer to be scrutinized and teams of university representatives and outside professional consultants would conduct the survey.

This week the University Grants Committee asked the universities to make maximum use of regional purchasing groups. The advice was contained in the letter telling the universities what their recurrent grant would be for 1984/5.

The figure of £1,265m represents a 2½ per cent cut in real terms. The UGC is also keeping back £142m for rates, redundancy compensation, new blood posts, and other overheads. – THES.

£25,000 couples under attack

Married couples whose combined income from teaching exceeds around £25,000 a year are under attack from a councillor who has come up with a controversial plan to create jobs for college graduates.

Highlands, believes that teacher unemployment could be drastically reduced if wives or husbands of heads and deputies were barred from also taking up teaching posts.

Mr David MacRae, a hotel proprietor from Golspie in the Scottish

authorities in the Highland region to adopt this restriction as part of the staffing policy.

More spending leads to better results, says Morrell

The continued improvement in exam results for Inner London's comprehensive last year gives the lie to claims by ministers that investment in education does not produce improved performance, Mrs Frances Morrell, leader of the Inner London Education Authority, claimed this week.

O level and CSE pass rates for 1983 – the second year in which a fully comprehensive intake sat them – were the best since 1978, the figures show. And the proportion of 15 to 16-year-olds who got no grade result shrank from a quarter to 21.1 per cent over those six years.

The share of O level entries resulting in gaining A-C grades (the old "pass") rose from 50.3 to 53.3 over the same period and the proportion of CSE entries getting a grade 1 also rose, from 8.6 to 9.6 per cent. But the proportion of 15 to 16-year olds gaining five or more O level passes or CSE grade 1s continued to hover round the 10 per cent mark, having risen only slightly from 9.7 to 10.1 per cent.

The only indicator of success on which Inner London pupils appeared to score less well last year than in 1978 was A levels, where the proportion of 17 to 18-year-old pupils sitting them declined from 74.8 to 72.3 per cent. But that, says the authority, is because those pupils can now all other exams like City and Guilds. The pass rate of those who sat A levels did rise, from 61.2 to 64.1 per cent.

Labour mounts Commons defence of ILEA

by David Lister

Ammunition for a Labour challenge to Government criticism of the Inner London Education Authority has been found in a letter from Miss Sheila Brown, the former chief HMI.

The letter, sent last year to Mr William Stansfield-Taylor, education officer, said that the ILEA was "one of only six L.E.A.s 'reckoned to have satisfactory or better provision in the main aspects of education'".

Friday 10 a Commons debate on London's services.

Mrs Morrell says in a letter to Mr Radice: "We are astounded that the Secretary of State can condemn ILEA's unnecessary extravagance while blindly ignoring what HMI is saying about the 90 L.E.A.s elsewhere in the country which do not have appropriate levels of provision."

Mrs Morrell has also written to Sir Keith Joseph, Education Secretary, challenging three sets of figures, given by him, in answer to a parliamentary question last week: (1) the ILEA employed 6,073 more non-teachers than teachers; in fact, Mrs Morrell claims, teachers are in a majority of 2,544. She says the budget for non-teaching staff is to rise by 6.4 per cent, not 18.4 per cent as stated by Sir Keith. And on his claim that school meal costs have risen 25 per cent, she says next year's are to go up only 4.1 per cent.

Meanwhile the ILEA this week was expected to approve a plan to open to parental inspection school records for pupils entering secondary schools from this September. Parents already have access to primary school records.

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Catering for appearances

Gordon Cunningham argues that real needs will be neglected under the Government's ostensibly radical proposals for the funding of further education.

"Overall... FE... much better resourced than... 25 years ago had responded flexibly, competently, and without undue disruption..."

"A great deal of the achievement of standards in NAFE had to do with stability in the system, which was often seen wrongly as inertia."

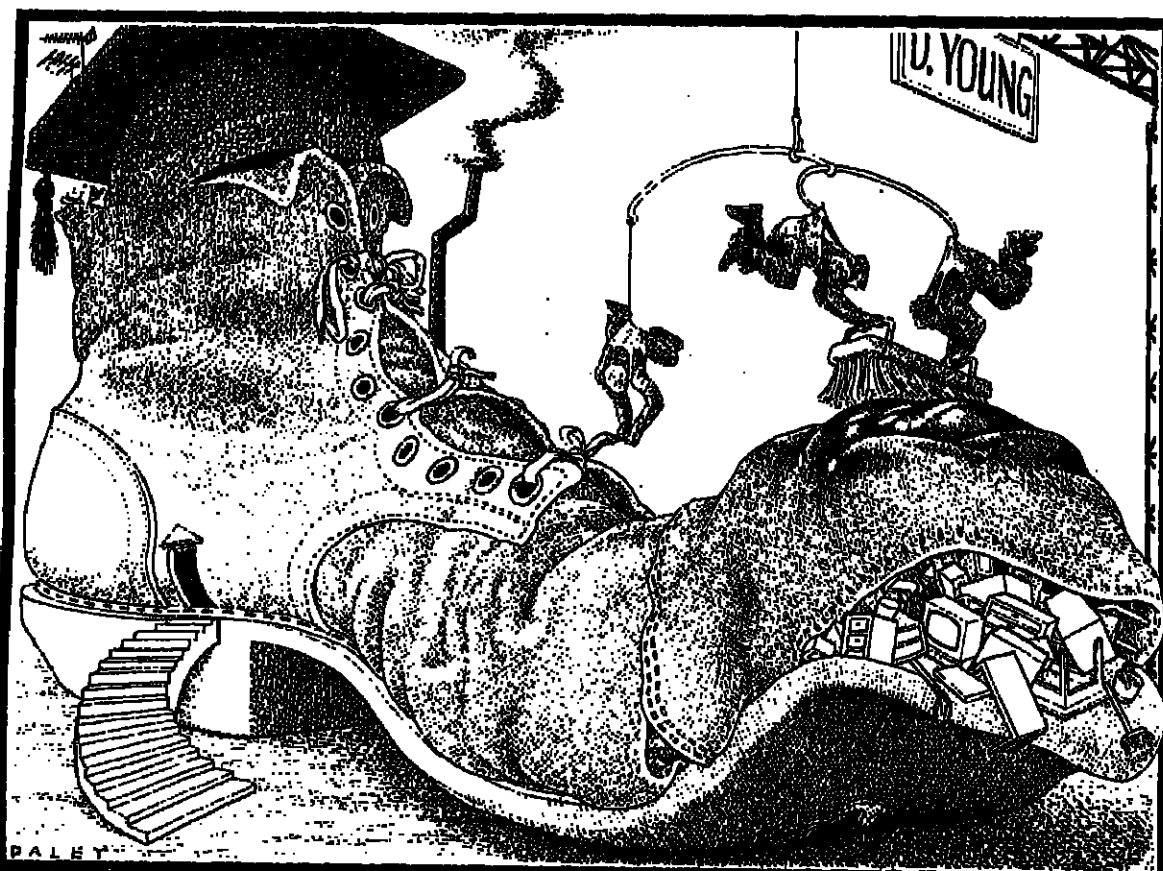
The opening and concluding remarks of senior HMI at a 1983 Inspectorate Conference on Non Advanced Further Education, characteristically cautious, and characteristically accurate: unremarkable even, until, in the month after their publication, the Government produced a White Paper (*Training for Jobs*, Cmnd 9135) which proposed radical structural changes in NAFE on the basis of an implied suggestion that FE was insufficiently responsive to employers' needs.

The major recommendations in the White Paper are:

- "Public sector provision for training and vocational education must become more responsive to employment needs at national and local level." (Para 43);
- For this purpose we have decided to give the (Manpower Services) Commission important new responsibilities by enabling it to purchase a more significant proportion of work-related non-advanced further education provided by local education authorities." (Para 45);
- The intention is therefore that the Commission should by 1986/87 account for about a quarter of the total provision in this area. The resultant reduction in the need for local authorities' expenditure will be taken into account in settling the relevant rate support grants." (Para 46);
- The Commission is being asked as a matter of urgency to consider, consult and report to Government on appropriate machinery at both national and local level for carrying out its enhanced responsibilities." (Para 50).

The MSC is a new piece of central executive machinery in the English and Welsh education system. It has the reputation for delivery in bulk and has hit some targets. (It is worth noting that many of these have only been achieved through the work of L.E.A. colleges - demonstrating the flexibility which is their tradition). The Commission therefore provides a plant tool for a Government determined on extending centralism.

The proposal that the MSC should have a 25 per cent shareholding in non-advanced vocational education and training is clearly intended to provide, in the White Paper's words, a system which is "more responsive to employment needs", and a national pattern of training in whatever the Commission perceives to be the most required skills. At this early stage in the debate it is important to examine these aims and the machinery proposed for their delivery.



A responding system

The White Paper bases its case on an assumption that the present pattern of vocational further education fails to meet needs. This is not borne out by demand. Between 1980/81 (actuals) and 1983/84 (estimates) full time equivalent provision of NAFE increased from 499,000 places to 587,000. In short, against the run of the training market, at a time of recession, and in response to government-generated demand and individual demand by students, NAFE increased its take up and changed the shape of its provision. No evidence of dissatisfied customers, then, on these statistics.

At the anecdotal level, there are conflicting views. The Confederation of British Industry, and a few industrialists, reported in these columns, have welcomed the idea of a national direction of training. Rather, more industrialists in these columns, and many more at local and college level, have emphasized how well the present system meets their needs.

And yet... almost everyone agrees that nationally there must be more education/training if we are to stop our

slide down the international economic league. Take a favourite comparison: The *Financial Times* commented recently that apprenticeship intake had fallen by almost 60 per cent in about 10 years in this country, and West German employers were spending over 90 per cent more than their British counterparts on apprenticeship schemes.

In backing what it described as "overdue reforms in training", it cautiously remarked that the new mechanisms should be constantly observed and, if they failed to work, promptly reversed again. Not quite a vote of confidence in change, more a despairing cry and one that disturbingly suggests structures should be changed whenever quantity and quality requirements are not met.

None of this is evidence that the FE system has failed its customers. Locally, there is abundant evidence that FE colleges have survived and thrived on meeting changing demands in the market. Must we assume that employers do not know what they want? Should we assume that the MSC in its government-given role will do better? How?

By acting as a national intelligence gathering agency it might help to articulate what may have remained hidden for years. By acting as a major customer it will be able to back its intelligent hunches but, because of the very scale of its new operation, it may distort the whole system and neglect local variations and needs - and create a new institutionalized inflexibility.

The changes required

My own association has pressed for years for fundamental changes. Specifically, we have agreed the need for:

- A fully integrated system of vocational education and training with responsibility at government level lying within one department;
- The need for a full scale review by the Government leading to rationalization of provision, including systems for student support.

In March 1983, in reply to a member L.E.A. which was trying hard to get the Government to approve proposals to update its scheme of further education, the department referred to the Government's intention to make a

statement on the law governing further education as soon as possible.

The White Paper deliberately and consciously avoids the law. It is a piecemeal proposal, not a comprehensive reform. It is a short cut to a scrambled and partly dismantled system. It hints at solutions but all it proposes is to move money from one place to another and add a significant, additional, bureaucratic layer to the machinery for deciding how the money should be spent. In particular, it takes no account of the conclusion in the final session of the 1983 HMI conference (para 10.2) that "frequent chopping and changing of policies and schemes was damaging to morale and provided no basis for the development and maintenance of standards".

Weaknesses in the present arrangements might be identified at the following points (starting at the top):

- The nonsensical division of responsibilities in central Government between education and training. Answer: a single government department with responsibility for both;
- The ability of employers to foresee, plan and finance training needs. Answer: a national intelligence agency (which could be the MSC), additional government funding, and a commitment by industry comparable to that of our major competitors;
- The ability of local systems to meet changing needs at short notice. Answer: the development of marketing techniques by colleges and L.E.A.s in concert with local employers, to prepare courses that are more closely matched to future needs, and if there is evidence of failure in existing consultative arrangements, a statutory requirement on L.E.A.s to set up consultative committees with employers on which the M.S.C. could play a part.

● A sheer lack of quantity. Answer: more money and incentives, but a good beginning would be an entitlement for everyone over 16 to take six years' further training or education over a period of, say, 20 years, matched by an obligation on L.E.A.s to provide, matched by a commitment to appropriate central government funding.

Fairly soon, the White Paper will be described as trying to rearrange the chairs on the deck of the Titanic. It conjures up the picture of a man who lives in a house which is too small. By repapering some of the walls he hopes to give the impression of enlargement. At the end of the exercise it may look different but it won't meet the needs.

Vocational Further Education through the 1980s. Copies from DES. Released December, 1983.

Gordon Cunningham is education officer of the Association of County Councils but the views expressed in this article are personal and not necessarily those of the association.

L.e.a.s. challenge union figure on staff paid below national average

by Richard Garner

Only a quarter of the 417,000 teachers in England and Wales earn less than the national average wage, according to their employers.

Mr Stephen Rouse, assistant secretary of the Local Authorities Conditions of Service Advisory Board, the management secretariat, speaking after teachers' leaders had claimed that nearly two-thirds were paid at or below the national average wage, said the "most accurate summary" of the pay data working party report on teachers' pay would be that less than a quarter of teachers earn less than the national average wage.

He said he was using as his yardstick the figures in the New Earnings Survey - compiled by the Department of Employment from the average weekly earnings of manual and non-manual workers for males over 21 and women over 18 to April each year - saying this table was the only one of a number of "national averages" to come near to a national average wage.

He said this showed the average weekly earnings to be £148.30 in April, 1983 - or £7,712 a year. "In March, 1983, 108,459 teachers out of a total of 417,179 were paid on salary points below £7,712," he said. "This proportion is 26 per cent. Some of those also receive London (inner) or £8,445 (outer)."

The full pay data report has yet to be published, but both sides hope to be ready to use it as background information to this year's pay negotiations which are due to resume on Wednesday week.

As the New Earnings Survey is compiled in April, it often underestimates teachers' earnings because Burnham settlements (backdated to April 1) are sometimes delayed till May or June. This complicates comparisons with other occupational groups, although, of course, teachers are not the only body of wage and salary earners whose pay settlements are often back-dated.

Meanwhile, local authority leaders have pledged their broad support for teachers' leaders for reforming the profession's pay structure - although they have emphasized the need to reach agreement on a clear definition of the "duties and responsibilities" of teachers.

Both the Labour-led Association of Metropolitan Authorities and the Conservative-controlled Association of County Councils have been canvassing the opinions of their members about the proposals. A meeting of the management panel of the Burnham committee, which negotiates pay, is to be held next Friday to discuss the responses and what to offer the teachers in response to their claim for a "substantial" pay rise this year.

Members of ACC's education committee, meeting last week, approved the broad principles outlined in the discussions but were unanimous in expressing their wish for a "full and binding" assurance from the Government that cash would be forthcoming in next year's rate support grant to finance any agreement with the teachers.

ACC members were particularly enthusiastic over proposals to improve the arrangements for the induction and in-service training of teachers by establishing a new entry grade for the profession - a primary agreed with teachers during three days of discussions in Manchester just before Christmas.

In addition, they are anxious to establish a main professional grade for teachers - but want the establishment of a link between the payment of salaries and more clearly defined duties and responsibilities for teachers.

Officers of the ACC - who had been expecting such a call - have been surprised by the vehemence with which authorities have been pressing this point. It could yet be the major stumbling block in the talks with teachers' leaders - who oppose a formal link.

The AMA has been assessing opinion through a series of six regional meetings on pay structure - the last of which was held last week - and a report on the reaction of authorities is being prepared for a meeting of the AMA's education committee next Thursday.

Again, most authorities have expressed their broad support for the main themes under discussion - and emphasized the need for government cash aid before any of them can be brought into effect.

Computers plea on returners

by Hilary Wilce

Women returning to the classroom after raising their families should be retained to teach computer studies, according to a report from the Inner London Education Authority.

A survey by the authority of computer education has brought dismal confirmation of girls' poor involvement with learning about computers. It shows that very few girls study computer science at an advanced level, and that far more men than women teach the subject.

In mixed secondaries, only 40 per cent of the pupils studying computer science are girls, and this proportion drops to 20 per cent at advanced level. Only 23 per cent of computer studies teachers are women.

If schools make any special arrangements it is by allocating "girls-only" time on the computer, the survey notes. No school mentioned had taken steps to involve girls in discussions, and no school had done anything special to involve women staff in computer education.

The survey noted no bias in the interest shown by men and women



Switched on: two girls were among the winners of a computer competition organized by BBC Television's *Aslan Magazine* programme. They are Samina Rabbani, 16, from Watley, West Midlands, centre right, and Paja Prabhakar, 10, from Glasgow. The other prizewinner was Saleem Sheikh, 16, from East London. They are pictured receiving their prizes from Mr Bob Dunn, junior education minister, and programme presenter Dr Aphar Singh.

primary teachers in computers. But the ratio of men to women attending in-service courses is 61 per cent to 39 per cent.

The report suggests retraining courses for teachers employed by the authority who have not obtained posts as a result of amalgamations and closures. "This would enable such teachers to offer an additional subject when applying for new posts," it says.

Other courses should be arranged

for married women returners, and for secondary school teachers in non-shortage subjects who want to teach computer studies, it says.

In addition, all lower schools should run computer appreciation courses, and parents and teachers must be told that computers are not irrevocably linked to mathematics.

Consideration should also be given to the provision of special courses for fifth and sixth form girls, it suggests.

NUT agrees to sit on control body

by Bert Lodge

The National Union of Teachers has accepted the invitation of Sir Keith Joseph, Education Secretary, to put forward three names for seats on the newly-formed Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education.

A similar invitation was turned down last month by the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers. The union said it could not accept Sir Keith's insistence that individuals invited to serve would not be regarded as union representatives.

Members of the TUC education committee met Sir Keith on Wednesday to convey their dissent at his refusal to accord the teacher union what they regard as due recognition.

The council, announced last December, will validate the professional content of all initial teacher training courses. Nominations from the NUT are Mr Peter Griffin, senior vice-president, Mr Ian Morgan, chairman of the teacher education committee, and Mr Walter Roy, chairman of the education committee.

The NUT boycotted the present Advisory Committee on the Supply and Education of Teachers from its formation in 1981 until early last year. It was dissatisfied at the degree of representation offered.

Black staff urged to speak out on racism

by Diane Spencer

Black teachers should not rely on white liberals combating racial discrimination in schools, Brent's multi-cultural adviser said this week.

Blacks were the only people who should bring about a change of attitudes. Mr Gerry Davis told a conference of black teachers:

"You will go through hell, but aren't you already doing that?" he asked his 150-strong audience. "Yes," they chorused.

The teachers had been given a day's leave by the north London borough to attend a conference called by the National Convention of Black Teachers to discuss racism and underachievement of ethnic minority staff.

Mr Raj Ray, co-ordinating secretary of the NCBT, claimed that heads had put pressure on staff not to attend.

The organizers were also upset that the Conservative chairman of Brent's education committee had refused an invitation to speak. Mr Bob Lacey, the leader of the council, also declined an invitation, but sent a letter and a black Conservative councillor - Mr Sam Greenaway - instead.

Mr Davis said black teachers should get involved in community groups, persuade the unions to take their cases seriously and not be afraid of endangering their promotion prospects by speaking out.

"The more quiet you keep, the more complacent heads will become. There was no such thing as unintentional racism, but there was unadmitted racism," he said. Black teachers had failed to let white teachers know they had been found out.

Mr Sam Greenaway admitted that there was something fundamentally wrong with the British education system in that his brother's children living in the West Indies aspired to be doctors or lawyers. "These black children can't even get O levels."

The ex-chairman of the then Labour-controlled education committee, Mr Ron Anderson, called for an expansion of sponsorship for access courses, a change in the regulations to tap the reservoir of teachers trained abroad and racism awareness courses for all new teachers.

The Society of Immigrant Teachers, one of the members of the NCBT, estimated that 60 per cent of Brent's black teachers are on Scale 1. About 10 per cent of the teaching force and 50 per cent of the borough's population is black.

Black teachers and community workers in London are protesting about a conference organized by the Royal Society of Arts on exams for ethnic minority languages being held today.

The protesters claim that the society has failed to consult the speakers, users and teachers of their languages. They say it is "tragic and insulting that suddenly an all-white institution wants to define for us the location of our mother tongues in the English education system".

NEWS

Overseas students may get grants repaid

by Biddy Passmore

A decision by a High Court judge next Wednesday will determine whether the Department of Education and Science and local councils owe millions of pounds to overseas students who were denied grants before 1979.

The judge must decide on cases being brought by overseas students against three authorities - Hertfordshire, Sefton, and Hereford and Worcester - which have joined forces with the DES to fight them. If they lose, councils throughout the country could face applications for reimbursement of grants from many thousands of overseas students who could have started their courses as far back as 1962.

The background to the case is a judgment in the House of Lords in December 1982, in which Lord Scarman ruled that students did not have to

have their "real home" here in order to qualify as home students (and thus be eligible for grants). Three years' ordinary residence here before starting their studies was enough, he said; even if they had come to Britain only for the purpose of education.

The judgment went against DES advice given to local education authorities in 1978, which said they should apply the "real home" test when deciding if students were eligible for mandatory grants. Some councils, such as Hertfordshire, had been applying that test since the present grants system began in 1962.

After the judgment, the DES told councils in a circular that they should give grants retrospectively to overseas students who met the three-year requirement who had started their courses in 1962 or earlier.

amended the law to put the position on mandatory grants back to what they had meant it to be.

But the department said that only in exceptional circumstances should they reconsider a refusal of an award made in respect of a course beginning earlier than 1979. It is this restriction which is being challenged in the High Court next week.

The three cases to be heard concern students who started their courses in September 1978. In two cases - against Hertfordshire and Sefton - the authority is asking the court to refuse the student leave to apply for a judicial review. In the third, against Hereford and Worcester, the authority will ask the court to overturn leave already given.

The three authorities acknowledge that the system of grants in force at the time was wrong. But they are entering two defences: that the cases are too old (applications for judicial review should normally be brought within six months) and that, if the applications are successful, the implications for both national and local finance would be very serious. (The DES pays 90 per cent of the cost of student awards.)

More cases are already in the pipeline, with Northamptonshire and two other authorities facing similar judicial challenges to these three. In Oxfordshire faces claims in respect of students who did not apply for grants because they knew they would fail the "real home" test. And Sunderland faces claims from students who applied for grants after the Scarman judgment but whose claims were not considered - and rejected - until after the Government had changed the law.

Court reports attacked

Teachers' reports to juvenile courts could lead to young offenders getting harsher sentences than their crime deserves, says the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders in a report published today, Diane Spencer writes.

A working group set up in 1982 to study the significance of school reports on sentencing in juvenile courts, found many unsubstantiated allegations of criminal behaviour.

"It is a cancer to the student body - if he didn't commit this offence, why someone else in his family did", was one example. The report says that "many perceptive and unsubstantiated remarks would not be permissible in an adult court."

Teachers frequently yield to the understandable temptation to use the report as a forum for the expression of frustration about, or even anger towards, a child who is a nuisance at school.

A school also might see the pending court appearance of a pupil as the chance to get rid of a troublemaker. The report says:

"The group, chaired by Dr Richard Rathbone, JP, calls for the contents of school reports to be fully disclosed to children and their parents. 'The report is a far more important document in the lives of children than most of those who produce and receive them appreciate,' concludes the working party. They urge teachers to present positive aspects of pupils, as well as their faults."

Sir Keith 'yes' to guidelines

Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, has agreed to issue clear and strict guidelines to local education authorities on their obligation to provide education for all 16 to 19-year-olds on demand.

This was the successful outcome of a campaign launched last November on education for young people with special needs. A deputation from teacher unions and organizations for the handicapped met Sir Keith last Monday to persuade him to issue a circular. Although he refused to do that, the delegation is pleased with his promise of guidelines.

These will include examples of good practice in some authorities with a view to encouraging others to follow suit. And Sir Keith asked the groups concerned to inform him immediately of local authorities which are to him

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John C. 1516

OVERSEAS

A policy to breed better babies

SINGAPORE

Children of graduate mothers are being given priority for school places. By a special correspondent.

If you are an ambitious Singaporean child anxious to attend one of the Republic's top schools, you had better be sure you have a graduate mother. Unless you possess this well-educated parent, you will not qualify to enrol in Singapore's choice schools. That is what is in store for the island's five and six-year-olds when they register for kindergarten and primary classes in July.

The new education policy which will grant schooling priority to those born of tertiary-educated mothers follows Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew's controversial suggestion that university-educated women should do the child bearing in the Republic - a tiny island which has no natural resources except its people.

In his National Day speech five months ago, Mr Lee expressed his concern that lesser educated women are having too many children, while women with university education are

having too few.

If this lopsided trend is not arrested, Singapore's graduate population will shrink and the country will be threatened by a smaller pool of talented people to maintain high standards, he maintained.

The premise that educated women bear brighter children sparked off a public debate that raged for weeks. Just as the dust began to settle, the education authority unfolded its new policy which, in essence, represents a turnaround in the government's "Two is Enough" population slogan.

Through this policy, top priority will be given to those who have graduate mothers where there are three or more children in the family. Next comes educated mothers with two children.

Third priority goes to those whose parents do not have a tertiary education but were sterilized after their second child. Uneducated parents, defined as those with only three or level passes, who have two or three children have been relegated to second last position. And as before, last are children of non-Singaporeans.

Under the old policy for school registration, priority was given to children who had an elder brother or sister in the school. Those whose parents stuck to the Two is Enough population

control slogan and got themselves sterilized after the second child, got second priority. The parents' level of education was not considered.

When the education authority was asked why the new policy focused on women's education rather than men's, an official replied that educated women almost invariably married educated men whereas educated men often married uneducated women.

Dr Goh Keng Swee, Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister, made the shock announcement at the end of last month. He gave statistics to show why well-educated mothers should be entitled to have larger families.

Women with university degrees and aged between 25 and 39, are having an average of 1.3 children while those in this same age group but with less education have 2.9 children.

One of the causes was that the government introduced sterilization as a precondition for priority in the schooling of children. As a result, between 1973 and 1982, the percentage of graduate mothers who were sterilized was nearly double that of those who were less educated.

"To correct the imbalance, we must encourage those who are well educated and can afford to have large

families to do so," Dr Goh said. "One measure is to assure such parents who intend to have two or more children that they will be given priority to enrol their children in schools of their choice," he added.

On the other hand, less educated couples will have to accept sterilization to keep their families small if they want priority for getting into schools.

The policy has also revived the quiet but sensitive issue of racial inequality in an overwhelmingly Chinese country. According to the latest (1980) census, 71 per cent of those with higher education degrees are Chinese, Malays and Indians, who are the second and third largest racial groups in the Republic, can claim to only 1.5 per cent and 7.9 per cent of university degrees, respectively.

The government's eagerness for graduate women to have more babies also stands at cross purposes to its stated desire to have more educated women join the labour force.

As one woman graduate banker who has two children puts it succinctly: "The government needs me here and it needs me at home making babies. Where do I perform the greatest national service?"

A healthy treat for pupils

TURKEY

Turkish primary school pupils returning from their mid-year vacation last Monday were in for a pleasant surprise - a free gift of - among other things - hazelnuts, grapes and apples courtesy of the Ministry of Education.

The treat was part of a programme to teach schoolchildren about a healthy diet. Parents will also be given leaflets containing information on the campaign.

And more goodies are in store. Soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes are to be handed out in a parallel campaign on cleanliness. The ministry is reported to be preparing for the manufacture of at least 10m toothbrushes.

It is not the first time that practical methods of health education have been tried out in Turkey. In 1981, 100,000 children were presented with soap and powdered milk in a UNESCO-sponsored move. The government has also taken over the burden of "food education", but it lapsed in 1977.

Bernard Kennedy

Fine words break down few barriers

Sir - Your Comment "Is it too late for the Class of '62" (February 3) struck a chord with me. I have tried for the last few months, so far unsuccessfully, to get funding for a course for mature women who wish to become more technologically competent (an electronic technician's TEC course). Many have been sympathetic (including the Equal Opportunities Commission); some unhelpful and unsympathetic (surprisingly, mostly women!); but I have received no constructive help.

I wish I knew how to translate well-intentioned goodwill such as your own into concrete help; it certainly isn't through a lack of effort on my, or my colleagues', behalf. Perhaps one of the various funding agencies could allocate a field officer to ensure that initiatives that are apparently desired are given the right support (as a full-time lecturer with a full teaching

load, there is a limit to the amount of time I can give to such a pursuit).

DR IAN CLEMENTS
47 High Street
Wolstanton
Newcastle
Staffordshire

Never too late

Sir - "Is it too late for the Class of '62?" No, it definitely is not! If the determination of women and men in the Horwath and Westhoughton areas is anything to judge by, not only do the opportunities exist, but they are being enthusiastically pursued in many small communities.

As a mature graduate and member of the "Class of '51", I was perhaps fortunate in that my "formal" education gave me the grounding which made the study of English rather more

easy for me than it is for many of the students who attend my classes.

The joys of sharing my so recently acquired and treasured "crumbs of wisdom" with others of the same vein are without parallel. My part-time job means a great deal of travelling and preparation at home, for which the net remuneration is negligible, but the reward is in a job satisfaction which the rigours of a full-time routine would not seem to offer.

For those of the "Class of '62" teetering with trepidation upon the brink of further education, may I unhesitatingly recommend them to English language Mode 3 (AEB), a course which might almost have been designed for those adults lacking in confidence, who are contemplating a return to learning. The accumulation of 50 per cent of the marks by continuous assessment not only prom-

otes a conscientious interest and involvement, but builds up the confidence of students, so that the final examination does not hold the terrors which I personally experienced as a returning A level student.

The pluses for the tutor of such a course are innumerable, as the success rate for these dedicated adults is phenomenal. The minuses are the intelligent victims of an education system which has failed them, by neither teaching them how to spell, nor insisting upon the value of that simplest of all pieces of knowledge (when it is imparted at an early age) which is one of the basic precepts of a command of the written word, that a sentence must have a subject and a verb!

EVE M TAYLOR
4 Ringfield Close
Whitfield
Manchester



A janitor's life: low basic wage and very little overtime.

Caretakers' pay

Sir - When locking up the staff common room recently I was interested to spot the headline "Teachers now earning less than the national average wage of £160.00 pw." (TES, January 20).

While I am very grateful to have a job in these days of high unemployment I feel that my wage may be of interest to your readers. My basic wage appears to be £73.45p for a 39-hour week and a further £23.50pw to cover shift work, and bonus payments. This works out at £96.95p per week. Very little overtime is available.

The shift work involves working from 6.30am to 3.30pm or 2pm to 11pm. On a Sunday the shift is from 8.30am to 5.30pm.

While the work of teachers is vastly more important than my work, I feel that school caretakers' wages are below the headline.

PETER F STORRS
Assistant caretaker
Blandford Upper School
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Local radio lessons that link village with city

THAILAND

Diana Smith describes a grassroots scheme to stimulate interest in radio learning

A graduate with a master's degree in adult education from Manchester University, Mrs Frances Thawthwaite, is determined to get non-formal educational programmes available to everyone in the villages of northern Thailand - and it looks as if she is already making headway.

Many distance education programmes in developing countries have failed in the past because of a lack of grassroots organization to stimulate interest in the television or radio programmes. Mrs Thawthwaite, who is an assistant professor in the university of the northern provincial capital of Chiang Mai, has therefore decided to get her graduates out into poor northern villages to undertake the essential field work needed to make functional education through radio broadcasting successful.

Six groups of four graduate teachers have moved into villages and set up a radio station for the 500 to 1,000 people living in the vicinity.

The two male and two female teachers who have recently moved into the primary school teachers' quarters in "village three" of Maeila District, 27 kilometres from Chiang Mai, are using the broadcasting equipment of the local temple to put out news and feature items to 880 people who live in villages three and five. The broadcasts run from 6.00 to 7.30 in the morning and from 6.30 to 7.30 at night.

Features include: topics of village interest; anything from details of a new government agricultural extension programme to teaching children how to clean their teeth.

"Teachers in Thailand are now performing extension roles, more and more and this is why we need to extend functional education programmes in the villages", according to Mr Amnat Chanpan, who coordinates the Functional Teachers Education Programme at Chiang Mai, sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme, in which Mrs Thawthwaite is centrally involved.

The Thai Government is still providing letters from people who have



Graduate students have moved into the remote villages to set up radio stations.

Year Economic Plan (1982-86) constantly stresses the need to use mass media to influence public behaviour and to improve the rate of rural development.

Children in some of the poorest villages in the north and north-eastern region never attend school, and UNESCO estimates that around 30 per cent become functionally illiterate within three years of leaving school. As in many other countries, their school education has been mainly inappropriate to their work on the land and the skills learnt at school are therefore subsequently lost.

This has a debilitating effect on getting new information for development into the villages. According to Inlong Inntarawong, the monk who runs the temple in Maeila's village three, "There were few outside influences coming into the village before the broadcasts started. There was nothing for the adults to read, little to talk about and although some families had radios, few ever bothered to listen to them."

But the village people are certainly showing an interest in the local broadcasts. They gather outside the temple in anticipation of the news, which is specifically adapted for them, and for the features on topics, some of which have now become the subject of discussion or "interest groups" in the village.

The broadcasting team learn which subjects are of interest from completed questionnaires from the villagers. Students from Chiang Mai University visit the village on Saturdays and Sundays, visiting all the households and gathering information on all aspects of daily life and needs.

The scripts are written from newspaper and magazine articles and with help from sources within government ministry offices and local institutes.

The 24 newly-graduated teachers at present working in village broadcast stations will stay four months in their assigned villages. Their reports will be used in the production of programmes for Chiang Mai radio stations which use educational material.

Mrs Thawthwaite says she already gets letters from people who have

heard her local radio programmes on which types of fish to cook, how to prepare smoking and how to make soy sauce, but she hopes the programmes will be expanded.

The project is not without its critics, however. Officials in the Interior, Agriculture and Health Ministries say that teachers are not development workers and should occupy themselves only with literacy training in the villages.

Mrs Thawthwaite says that fortunately there is strong support for the development education and that the Government recognizes the need for effective use of mass media. She says that in Thailand parents have always approached the local teachers for all types of information because most villages have a primary school even if there is no other local ministry office.

In some other parts of Asia it has been the Open University within the country rather than extension education teachers, as in the Chiang Mai project, who have been primarily responsible for the development of distance education programmes.

Even in Thailand there have been discussions at the Sukhothai Thani Mahatrat Open University general towards functional education for illiterates in remote areas. But according to Mr Ronnie Carr, a UK Open University consultant to such programmes in Asia, the difficulties of establishing courses and making them run effectively are considerable.

There are difficulties in getting feedback from motivated field workers, over-ambitious teaching staff who are unused to developing basic education resources. It is also necessary for open universities to get their development courses established before they can put more energies into continuing education programmes.

Students at Chiang Mai are trained to teach practical and appropriate skills for northern Thai villages. Most of them have skills - such as animal husbandry, nutrition, grafting, weaving - before they are recruited onto the graduate programme and all of them are taught to concentrate on what is appropriate to the village.

HMI reports

Sir - Your February 3 article, "Text-book stock found wanting by inspectors", highlights with stark clarity the dangers inherent in the Secretary of State's decision to make public all HMI reports on schools.

It gives free licence to any paper to be selective in that which it presents to the public. In respect of the report on my school, Philip Venning has placed undue emphasis on the negative aspects, and his presentation has seriously distorted the picture of what has been widely recognized in official circles as a very good report. The school is well known for good standards of work and relationships, for carefully considered aims and objec-

tives, clearly stated and well realized in their implementation. All this has been recognized by HMI.

Venning's distorted analysis can damage that reputation; it is churlish in that it takes no account of the very hard work of a dedicated staff, carefully and painstakingly built up over the years in the face of inadequate resources, and that with an exclusive school population of the age group 13-16, regarded by many as being the most demanding of the statutory years of education.

The spirit of the report is encapsulated in its conclusions, when I quote to address the balance:

Kettlethorpe High School is a pleasant school. The new buildings have enhanced its facilities and have enabled much-needed rationalization of subject departments to be carried out. The pupils

are well-behaved and with very few exceptions are cooperative in school. Teaching and learning take place in an orderly community, where pupils are known as individuals and relationships are good.

Certain difficulties are likely to arise in a school with the 13-16 age range. At any time, large proportions of the school population have recently arrived or will soon depart; the year groups are large in relation to the overall size of the school, so that giving advice about options or post-16 courses or employment prospects is a major task; much of the school's work is directly concerned with examination courses. In general, the school resolves these difficulties well. In particular, the pastoral organization, including the arrangements for discipline, rewards and respon-

sibilities, has been carefully devised and is effective in practice.

The school aims to provide a wide and balanced curriculum for all pupils. Such a curriculum has been developed, which has the merit of offering English, mathematics, science, physical education and a creative subject to all pupils throughout their three years in the school. Boys and girls are equally well served.

The teaching staff have devised or selected appropriate courses and pupils are well prepared either to leave full-time education at 16 or to go on to courses at the tertiary college or neighbouring sixth-forms.

GERALD ATHAY
Headmaster
Kettlethorpe High School, Wakefield

Raison d'être

Sir - Teacher members of The Responsible Society who are regular readers of *The Times Educational Supplement* and believe it to be a fair paper have read with distaste the article "The Ayes Have Had It" (January 13) by Hugh David. This is the second tendentious attack on the society by your paper in six months and contains distortions and misrepresentations of the truth.

It was perhaps too much to expect Mr David to write objectively about the work of an organization involved with the welfare of the family. But to publish a snide piece of journalism under the sub-title of an investigation is unworthy of a serious paper in regard to a subject which rightly concerns the vast majority of thinking people in this country.

Investigative journalism requires an analysis of documentation, a reading of a wealth of literature, and discussion with those whose knowledge would give further insights into the subject, for example, our founder and chairman, Dr S E Ellison. Mr David did none of these things though all were available to him. Instead, he relied on a long-defunct sensationalist magazine as suitable research material.

We should require equal space to counter all Mr David's subjective interpretations in his "investigation", but will content ourselves with the following comments:

Mr David claims that the society says "No" to direct sex education in schools. A glance at Family Bulletin No 28 (Summer 1980) would have revealed the following statement: "The Responsible Society believes that sex education if it is to be given in schools, should be treated with sensitivity with the aim of preparing young people for marriage and parenthood, and given only to those children whose parents wish them to receive it."

Mr David claims that the society says "No" to homosexuality. A glance at the society's manifesto *The Case for Responsibility* says: "The following on the complex subject of homosexuality: social responsibility dictates that while the minority who feel attracted to their own sex should certainly not be persecuted or despised, they should be discouraged and certainly refrain from proselytizing."

In order to mock the society, Mr David pieced together phrases he had extracted from a leaflet for teenagers produced by some of our younger members. He might have informed your readers that the leaflet has been welcomed by many teachers and educational authorities and more than 170,000 copies have been ordered. A recent letter from a headmaster of a coeducational school in Kent, says that the leaflet was "exactly what we wanted" to counter an unfortunate session in the classroom by a speaker recommended by a local health education authority.

Mr David attempts to smear the work of the society with "right-wing" and "fringe Christian" interjections. What nonsense! We have no political or religious affiliations: all those doctors, teachers, concerned parents and young people who constitute the membership of the society are involved for the simple and sincere reason that they are genuinely concerned for the future health and welfare of the family and its young; a concern now held by that veteran pioneer of sexual freedom, Dr Germaine Greer.

VALERIE RICHES (Mrs)
National Hon Secretary
The Responsible Society
Widened
Milton Keynes MK2 2JL
Bucks

Hugh David writes: *The difficulty facing anyone - members, opponents and even 'investigative journalists' - involved with the Responsible Society is defining its real purpose. What the society stands for is usually buried among the subordinate clauses of its oh-so-reasonable pronouncements. 'Sex education if it is to be given in schools, should be given only to those children...' Is that an eye or a fudge? 'The minority who feel attracted to their own sex...' should be discouraged. That's still a no-ah, I submit, a condescending no-ah.*

My purpose in writing the article was to try to nail the society's colours to a mast, any mast. To try to make it say what it means. It already undoubtedly means what it says. To do this I did indeed analyse, read and discuss, not perhaps with Dr Ellison but at considerable length with Mrs Riches herself. Why it was "perhaps too much" to expect me to write objectively I do not know - although I did admit to being biased.

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Peak - it sets the standard

FEATURES

Dr Trevor Kerry has been a project officer for the DES and Schools Council, and is head of applied social sciences at Doncaster Metropolitan Institute of Higher Education.



FEATURES

Membership of Education Otherwise has doubled in the last two years and EO receives 40 to 50 inquiries a week from other parents - including teachers - who are thinking about educating their children out of school.

Formed in 1977 by a small group of parents, it now has a membership of 1,200 families, and most counties in Britain have a local coordinator. EO takes its name from Section 36 of the 1944 Education Act, which states: "It shall be the duty of the parent of every child of compulsory school age to cause him to receive efficient full-time education suitable to his age, ability and aptitude, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise."

It aims to reaffirm the rights of parents to choose how they exercise this duty and the rights of children to have full consideration given to their wishes and feelings regarding education.

People contact Education Otherwise for varied reasons. Some families join because of philosophical or religious convictions which are incompatible with orthodox schooling. Others join in response to crisis or long-term dissatisfaction with their children's education.

Janet Everdell, inquiries secretary, responds to the phone calls and letters EO receives. Initially she tries to steer clear of giving advice: "All I tell them is the options open to them and their legal right to educate their children at home. What they want at that stage is a little confidence."

Families who do join are put in touch with their local coordinator and sent a guide to their rights, a booklet of *Suggestions about learning at home* and bi-monthly newsletters.

The membership has changed over the years, according to Dr Roland Meigham, lecturer in education at Birmingham University, who has been researching into EO. "Originally about 80 per cent of EO parents were educating at home out of desperation", he says. "Now that percentage is lower and about 40 per cent make a spontaneous decision to teach their children at home."

Dr Meigham estimates that for 25 per cent of parent home educators at least one partner has a teacher training. A still stronger tendency was suggested in a study by EO member Julie Webb. Ten out of the 17 families she interviewed included at least one teacher-trained parent. Either way, it would seem several hundred teachers have rejected schooling for their own children.

Why are teachers so well represented? As Julie Webb pointed out, it may be that teachers have greater confidence than "unqualified" parents or that their experience of schooling from inside the profession has been more disillusioning.

Janet Everdell finds a number of inquiries are from teachers who "don't like what they see", some of whom have given it up because, she says, "they're fed up with having to compromise". In defence of those who do compromise, she points out: "They have to earn their living, but everyone wants to do the best for their child."

But clearly not all EO practising teachers are disillusioned, and while well aware of the criticism of double values, feel no actual conflict in what they are doing. As one member put it: "We're not here to knock the system. The way I see it, schooling is a provision by the state for those who want to make use of it, but people should realize that there is an alternative."

EO is anxious to show parents that teaching qualifications are not necessary for home educating. What matters more, they say, is "commitment, energy and resources to undertake it." John Elenor, EO's general secretary, suggests another important quality is trust. Children sometimes take a year or more to "de-school" - to adjust to the greater freedom of home teaching. He says: "As a parent you have to have a great deal of faith to watch them mucking about before they get down to learning."

Many EO members at this stage have found a need to impose and adhere to a timetable so the child feels secure. Gradually, says one parent, "self-reliance returns and you can operate in a more natural and easy-going way."

The law does not specify a minimum period of daily instruction, although Section 37 of the 1944 Act states that it is the duty of the local education authority to ensure that children within its area receive "efficient" full-time education (suitable to the child's age, aptitude and ability). As EO says, "efficient" is not defined: local authorities tend to determine their own criteria and are responsible for seeing that these are fulfilled.

For parents and children concerned to use specialized teaching, EO suggests the options of part or full-time attendance at colleges, or correspondence courses. Nick, Janet Everdell's son who "educated himself" at home from the age of 12, has set a shining example. After taking O levels by correspondence course and A levels at the local technical college, he is waiting to take up a place reading maths and physics at Cambridge.

It may seem ironic that the achievements which EO see as enhancing their credibility are precisely those sought after by the most traditional public schools. "It's nice to know", said one EO member "that we are not only fully rounded people but are successful in the eyes of the world."

Although EO is firmly in the alternative education world, there is no single all-embracing EO philosophy. The organization publicizes and has gained inspiration from the ideas of a number of radical thinkers, including Maria Montessori, A S Neill, Rudolf Steiner and John Holt, who is described as EO's American counterpart.

John Elenor would like to talk to education authorities about greater cooperation between parents and schools; a system of "flexischooling", where children would attend school voluntarily and choose what they studied. "Once teachers are more accountable they make their teaching more related to the needs of their pupils," he says.

EO can be contacted at Heatherhead, 25 Cammion Lane, Hemmingford Abbots, Cambs PE18 9AN. Tel St Ives 63130.

When school is OUT

Why are hundreds of teachers refusing to send their own children to school? Jo Newson reports on them and the growth of the deschoolers' support group, Education Otherwise

The Masfields, Brighton

Steve Masfield is a middle school teacher and his wife Gill, is an ex-nurse. They lost their six-year-old son Johnathan out of the local first school at the end of his second year. Their daughter Clare is nearly five and could also have started school by now but is being educated at home with her brother.

"The school was a good and caring one", says Steve Masfield. "I think our problem was Johnathan started so young. He wasn't ready for writing or reading but the class was doing it each day. It became work rather than a discovery."

The Masfields do not follow a curriculum by day - it is determined mainly by the children's interests. "We don't say 'it's time you did this', says Steve Masfield. "although there is still a background worry of reading and writing to be done: we introduce it as fun rather than work."

The children also follow education programmes on TV. They are taught violin in a group (Gill Masfield is learning with them) and are taking French lessons with a bilingual EO parent and other four to seven-year-olds.

"Social contact was one of our main worries at first," says Mr Masfield. "But they have plenty of friends. We're lucky living in Brighton, where there are so many others in EO. Almost every day we see other families and Johnathan and Clare have contact with school children through 'The Woodcraft Folk'."

Gill Masfield finds home teaching gives her freedom from "living by the clock". She feels that teaching qualifications count less than energy and determination. "But being with your child non-stop it's important to set aside time for yourself."

The Masfields think a serious drawback to school teaching is having to cope with the needs of several children at once. "Spontaneous questions need an almost immediate answer," says

also feels that the underlying pressure of O and A levels "goes right back, even to when they enter at four."

But they are not disillusioned with schools. "I'm still working in the system and it's still my bread and butter," he says. "I'm not advocating that people should take their children out of school. Schooling is fine for the majority of children but when you run into a problem with your own you realize you have to do something about it."

Now in their second "term", the Masfields feel that what they are doing is still somewhat experimental. "If the say they want to go back at the age of seven or eight that's fine," says Steve Masfield. "We've said we'll give it a year and evaluate it, but it seems to be working out. Johnathan's a changed child."

The Johnsons, Middlesex

Barbara and Richard Johnson have been home educating their daughters, Emma, aged 13 and Christie, aged 11, for four years though neither of them are teachers. Their oldest daughter, now 17, has chosen to stay at school.

Barbara, an ex-veterinary nurse and Richard, previously a supermarket manager, share the responsibility almost full-time. He took up a job on a milk-round in order to fit in with home education and now works as an unqualified but specialist family counsellor from home.

The Johnsons made the decision after seeing a television programme about EO. Emma and Christie had been unhappy at school, but their parents had never considered the possibility - or legality - of educating them at home. For Mrs Johnson, the decision was also coloured by her experience of schooling: "I was unhappy at school and I promised myself if ever my children were I would do something positive about it."

Emma and Christie have no timetable, but the Johnsons try to slot in some reading and writing from textbooks every day. They also take advantage of activities like shopping and cooking to put calculations into practice. Emma is working on typing lessons twice a day from her mother, and may choose to start studying subjects for O level. That would involve following the syllabus at home and taking exams at the local secondary school. Perhaps that would show people that we do get work done at home, says Barbara Johnson.

The Johnsons are well aware of scrutiny by the I.e.s. "The inspectors are round here every two months. On the whole they're quite pleased, but we've been told to keep fuller written records of what the girls are doing," Mrs Johnson says. "They're worried about the silence side - and classical music. But we've always told them they just don't have those interests at the moment. If they did we'd do something about it - and pay for tuition if necessary. There's no limit to what they can do."

The Johnsons find their Northolt council estate provides ample opportunities for friendships. But



The Johnsons

The Hollands, Sussex

Helen and Mark Holland have four children aged from two to eight, none of whom has attended school. Mark Holland is a publisher, and Helen did a postgraduate training and worked as a teacher of English as a foreign language before starting a family. She still "keeps her hand in" teaching EFL at an adult education class one evening a week.

Helen Holland describes herself as "a natural rebel", having been taught at home until she was nine and suffered an unhappy period at boarding school. As a mother, she found "after the paraphernalia of nappies and bibs it seemed ludicrous to hand the children over to someone else just when they were becoming really in-

teresting."

Her feeling that compulsory schooling can be an artificial and unstimulating environment for learning had been strengthened by a term's teaching 15-year-olds in Tosteth. "It was the year the school leaving age was raised and they were out for blood - preferably mine! School was doing nothing for them. Those children needed to be doing what they saw as relevant."

Mornings in the Hollands' house usually begin with the children "doing the three Rs, so to speak", round the kitchen table. "In the afternoon I leave them to their own devices or follow up their ideas."

"I don't teach everything myself - I can't," says Mrs Holland. She has made use of "a huge variety of skills in EO" to help her. One member exchanges her skills in German for Helen's teaching of poetry and English history. Last term an ex-maths teacher, shared with other EO families, gave two hours' a week tuition. And the Hollands have just discovered someone willing to teach Greek and Latin.

Mrs Holland orders teaching materials from educational catalogues or makes them herself, and she finds the public library is a good resource centre. "Most work up to O level science can be arranged in the kitchen", she maintains, gesturing at crystal-growing experiments on the mantelpiece.

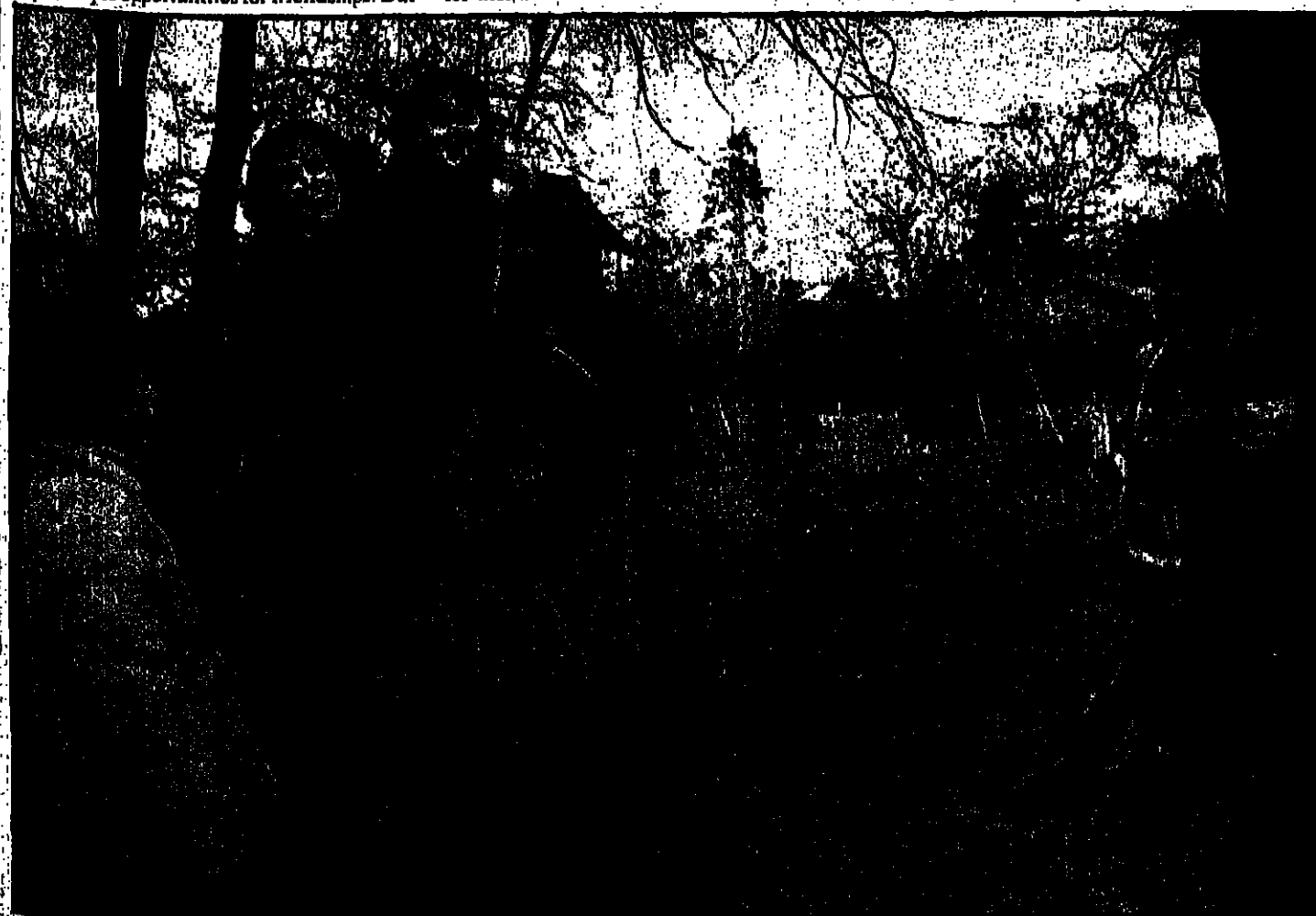
But she is "not madly aiming for O and A levels... Our children probably will be academically inclined... but I also try to encourage non-academic skills. I think that's just as important."

She feels the children have a very satisfactory social life despite having few "school friends". They regularly meet other EO families and go to gym club, ballet classes, brownies and Sunday school. She feels they get on well with other children and adults, and are not encumbered by "the British great divide between young and old."

Mrs Holland thinks any parent could educate their children at home if they really wanted to. "It would be very difficult if you disagreed about doing it. My husband is very supportive, despite long working hours he takes over completely when he comes home."

Weighing up the costs of private tuition, she estimates she would be spending as much on uniform and petrol if she were sending them to school.

As practising Christians, the Hollands feel an important aspect of teaching their children at home is providing a good environment for moral and spiritual development. "Those values don't rank as highly as they should, even in C of E schools. It seems important to me to protect children with a moral armour. School can be such a negative influence."



The Hollands



The Masfields

selective, and sometimes a little too clever: if it has been argued, for example, that Kant was inconsistent in describing animals as merely means—but forbidding their mistreatment for we come to treat human beings badly too. The absurdity lies in forbidding us to treat animals merely as means, lest we treat ends (namely human beings) as means; but if we may not treat means as means, what may we do? Regan replies, more than a little patronizingly, that Kant need only be forbidding acts that make animals less good as means (as a careless slave-owner might damage his slaves). True enough; but those are not the examples of mistreatment that Kant gives. What Kant deplores is, for example, the killing of a dog or horse who has laboured her life out in our service. This is not to make her less useful as a means than she would be; it is to treat her as having value only in so far as she is useful to us. In so far as Kant recognizes that such conduct is unworthy of a humane mind, she is forced to acknowledge that animals ought not to be treated merely as means, that they have lives of their own.

That Regan's book is the definitive or classical work, the equal of Rawls or Nozick, that the publisher's blurb proclaims it, I rather doubt. It is a clear and cogent demonstration that animal rights are intellectually respectable, and that those who wish to continue exploiting our kindred will have to find some better arguments and better theories than they have yet managed.

ARTS

A family at war

Lynne Truss talks to the author of 'A Coming to Terms for Billy', to be broadcast next Tuesday on BBC 1

When Belfast playwright Graham Reid wrote his first television play his aim was to show a Belfast family "who had problems which for them were much more important than what was happening in the streets, or the constitutional future of Northern Ireland". The play, *Too Late to Talk to Billy*, succeeded so well in showing, with realism and dry humour, the fierce emotional conflicts and allegiances of the Protestant Martin family that it won the Samuel Beckett Award for the best first television play in 1982, and BBC Northern Ireland decided to go ahead with further plays about the family. It is the third of the plays, *A Coming to Terms for Billy*, which will be shown on Tuesday.

The Martin household must be familiar to many by now — as indeed must the Martin house, which is surely among the best-utilized sets in BBC history. Billy (Kenneth Branagh) and his sister Lorna have been looking after their younger sisters Ann and Maureen since the death of their mother Janet in the first play and the departure for England of their father Norman (James Ellis) in the second. In Norman's absence the house has become the home of the children's ailing Uncle Andy, while Billy has gone to live with his Catholic girlfriend. What Billy must "come to terms" with is his hatred of Norman, a "hard man" who used to drink and fight, and who was, generally, "the big bad wolf" of the family. While in England Norman has married, and he now returns to Belfast with the intention of starting again with his family.

Graham Reid has produced a number of plays, for television and stage, since his first play was produced in



Uncharacteristic smiles in the Martin household.

Dublin in 1979. It is perhaps an urge to make up for lost time that makes him so prolific, as he's come to it quite late (he's now 38) and perhaps feels he has to catch up with those whose educational background was more conventional than his own. He "hated school" and left at 15, but in his mid-twenties he was persuaded to go back into education and acquired O and A levels, and a BEd degree from Queen's Belfast (where he's now writer in residence). He taught for three years before leaving to write full-time, and as a teacher he again found that he hated school, angry that the system continues to produce people who are "virtually illiterate" and that it ignores the obvious need to prepare young people for unemployment. In the context of Northern Ireland, this omission

is irresponsible and dangerous: "The situation there is rather more than acute because young people who leave school, who are thick and have no job, can very quickly become celebrities by joining a paramilitary organization." In his play *The Hidden Curriculum* (1982) he dealt with precisely this inadequacy in the system and suggested that more Irish history in the curriculum could give young people some perspective on the "atmosphere of violence" they live in. It dismisses Reid that in their first three years of history (after which many opt out of the subject) children in Northern Ireland "never touch on twentieth-century history". They can just get as far as the 1798 Rebellion "if the teacher goes like a whipper". Though he probably wouldn't put it

this way, he is getting his own back on teachers. They occur frequently in his plays (Norman's new wife is one), and he often uses them to represent middle-class values and blindness to social realities. And the particular social reality he wants to enforce on them, and on his audience, is the horror of violence, a recurrent theme in his stage work which is always present, but below the surface, in the *Billy* plays. "I'm very anti-violent myself," he says, "and I think the only way to win people away from violence is to show it at its ugliest." Incidents of terrible brutality are central to each of his stage plays, but gratuitous they aren't: in each case the very meaningfulness of the act itself as against the appalling consequences it holds for its victims and perpetrators, is the issue at stake.

Where does he go from here? More *Billy* plays, more stage work in Ireland? He is considering following up the story of Billy's sister Lorna, who is left at the end of Tuesday's play with a potentially interesting future. And there will certainly be more stage plays, though he's reluctant to talk about them. One thing seems certain: that having helped to break down the television audience's resistance to Northern Ireland as a subject, he's now going to help in a similar campaign in English theatre, with three commissions from English directors: at the Liverpool Playhouse, the Lyric Hammersmith and the Royal Court. So we'll be hearing more from him.

Three Plays for Television: Too Late to Talk to Billy, A Matter of Choice for Billy and A Coming to Terms for Billy by Graham Reid will be published by Faber in April.

A loose end

Young Shoulders.
BBC1, February 14.

The eventual reconciliation of the parents in John Wain's novel was hard to swallow and it may only be because one expects less from the medium that gave us *The Thorn Birds* and *The Far Pavilions*, that its sentimentality seems more passable in this adaptation as a "Play for Today". What is puzzling is that, in broad cases the miraculous resolution follows some sharp insights into family relationships and has been prepared through conventions which, earlier in the book and the film, seem quite acceptable.

Perhaps, too, the visual medium is more effective in suggesting the central theme. Paul (Andrew Grove) is gone with his parents to Lisbon to attend a memorial service for his sister, killed with a school party in a plane crash. He is conscious of Clare's presence and the actuality of her death: passing aircraft, fire regulations and the drop from the hotel balcony evoke it and a candle flame lets him test the agony of destruction. His henpecked father (David Horovitz) and alcoholic mother (Jennifer Peacey), immersed in the failure of their marriage, are mainly concerned to avoid living, so Paul takes up an invitation from another member of the group to see "a bit of life". In Night town, he comes face to face with himself and with Clare, acknowledging their common humanity and learning the distinction between her death and his life.

Paul's disappearance may be the immediate cause, but Clare is the one and her burning plane the machine through which their parents are reunited. In discovering how to care for others, they come to care for each other: a fine sentiment, well-directed, but the reality of their upper-middle-class marriage (see middle-middle in the book, I feel) has been established too precisely for us to accept the trite ending. It is surely a promise of the play that life often begins, not fairy-tale endings.

Robin Buss

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Nick Baker

ARTS

Life and art unreconciled

John Weightman offers a sceptic's assessment of Buñuel's work

My Last Breath, The Autobiography of Luis Buñuel, Translated by Abigail Jevell.
Jonathan Cape £8.95.

The prospective buyer should be warned, perhaps, that this book was not actually written by Buñuel himself, although he approved of the text. It was compiled by his French assistant, Jean-Claude Carrière, from conversations recorded, or noted down, during the very last years of the director's life. To adopt a phrase, it is a café-table book, fascinating enough in its implications, but without the density or detailed reflectiveness that it might have had, if the subject himself had been able to wield the pen.

But, with characteristic simplicity, Buñuel confesses that he was never a writer and always needed a collaborator's help even with his scenarios. Indeed, he further confesses that he only became a film-maker because of his inability to express himself in literature or painting. This is a revealing remark, because it shows how congenial he found the fluidity of the cinematographic form as a means of conveying his personal obsessions. Whether or not he always controlled this fluidity with success is, of course, another question.

After reading the account of the various phases of his career in Spain, Paris, New York, Hollywood and Mexico, a socially-minded critic might be tempted to say that Buñuel, like some other apparently revolutionary artists, was at bottom an *enfant terrible*, an anti-bourgeois bourgeois, whose art was largely an irrational, personal game on the margin of serious society. There was certainly something of the upper-class drop-out about him. As the son of one of the richest rentiers in Saragossa, he spent an untroubled childhood in the intensely Catholic and hierarchical society of pre-1914 Spain and, whatever his later political or religious opinions, he is unashamedly

nostalgic about that archaic world with its traditions and rigid values, as if he went on needing them as a permanent foil. Instead of developing beyond them. Also when, in his early twenties, he revolted against the Church and the prospect of an average career, and did so with the self-confidence instilled by a well-to-do upbringing, and with the knowledge that, in the last resort, he could always count on a little family money.

But there was obviously more to him than that. Watching his ravaged, rather monk-like, face on the television screen during the recent *Arena* programme devoted to him, one could guess with hindsight that he was primarily a drop-out from religion. His mystic drive and his pagan appetites could not be fitted into the narrow patterns of orthodoxy, or he might have become a priest, as his mother hoped he would. They were also much too powerful for him to settle to any relatively humdrum occupation. So, after a great many false starts and the revelation of Fritz Lang's films, he took to the cinema. Even before making the acquaintance of the Surrealist group, he and his friend Salvador Dalí had projected their sado-masochistic fantasies into *Un chien andalou*, which seems in retrospect like a model Surrealist film.

Surrealism, although violently anti-Catholic, was essentially a religious movement, which put its faith in subversion, anarchy, the irrational and the subconscious, as if these negative principles could change life positively for the better. Buñuel admits that they didn't but, with a kind of naive innocence, he went on believing in them indefinitely, even when the Spanish Civil War, the rise of Hitlerism, the horrors of World War Two and finally the atomic bomb had shown that ordinary, everyday reality could supply more extremism and more black humour than the most unbridled Surrealist imagination.

He himself accepts this enormous



Luis Buñuel and Jeanne Moreau on the set of *Diary of a Chambermaid* (1964)

contradiction, without doing anything to overcome it. Of the Spanish Civil War, he says:

I, who had been such an ardent subversive, who had desired the overthrow of the established order, now found myself in the middle of an enormous volcano, and I was afraid... In the cocoon of my timid nihilism... As usual, I was torn between my intellectual (and emotional) attraction to anarchy and my fundamental need for order and peace.

Nevertheless, he was still convinced in old age that, compared to the works of the Marquis de Sade, "all other masterpieces paled", and the prospect of universal extinction through the atomic bomb evokes the following comment: "I find the possibility magnificent, and in fact I am tempted to shout bravo." He does not seem to be making such remarks hysterically or for self-advertisement, as Dalí might do, but with resigned contemplative-

ness, as if his imagination were working violently and destructively on one level and he himself living quietly on another, without making any attempt to reconcile the two modes of operation.

This contemplativeness seems to have been characteristic even of his career in films. He shows no sign of any great ambition or asperity, but rather a quiet stubbornness. He appears to have accepted such possibilities as came along as a way of releasing his subconscious urges, without bothering to understand them or to organize them beyond a certain point.

This may explain why I, for one, have great difficulty in remembering his films apart, as separate, successful entities. For me, they break down into disconnected sequences, some unforgettably impressive but others ramblingly tedious. But I am exactly the wrong spectator for them, being an anti-Surrealist, with a belief in the ultimate rationality of good art.

Among this week's contributors:

Stephen R L Clark is Professor of Philosophy at Liverpool University. His books include *The Moral Status of Animals* and *The Nature of the Beast*. Colin Lacey is Professor Emeritus at Sussex University. John Weightman is Professor Emeritus of French, University of London.

David Self's article about the Poetry Society has had to be held over temporarily because of shortage of space.

Next week

Teenagers: Geoffrey Pearson on their political and social views, and Anne Stevenson on their literary creativity; children's theatre and drama.

Robin Buss

The Triangle Theatre-in-Education Company, directed by Carmen Jacob, is based at the Sherman Theatre, University College, Senghennydd Road, Cardiff.

Match play

Mistero Buffo, By Dario Fo. 1982 Theatre Company, Essex University Theatre. Theatre, Cheek by Jowl. Theatre Royal, Bath. St Edmunds. An Inspector Calls, By J B Priestley. Mercury Theatre, Colchester.

Mistero Buffo is an extraordinary piece of theatre. Mixed by Dario Fo from medieval Italian mystery plays, with an eye for their comic and political content, translated by Ed Emory and adapted and staged by 1982, they inhabit that theatrically disorienting area where the grotesque unites the terrible and the comic.

Take "The Slaughter of the Innocents" for example. Not a bundle of laughs, you would think, and indeed the performance walks a barbed wire tightrope. It's almost impossible not to gaggle along with the murdering soldiers when the "comic" and, yes, this is funny, dripping words and splatters of blood in front of us against "Mrs Smith" begging, quietly and truly, for her child's life. A crazy woman does not rail against God for allowing it, but reports her earlier "misguided" outburst, now believing, in an astounding distortion of the Abraham and Isaac story, that her dead baby has become a "boy". The theologically correct moral that God in his pity protects the great-children with madness rings as indignantly hollow as it must have done 600 years ago.

Theatre is so good at containing its own contradictions, and so often here the two or more things going on at once are mutually incompatible — audiences or critics, or in terms of audience reaction — and the resulting interferences of the mind and the emotions: by the end of the show we fully

understand the territory of the *jongleur*, the mystifier's fool. Deflation is the keynote. In a world where God is on the side of the land-owners, Christ's gift of tongues is given not to the pious but to the poor. A prolonged, but verbally ingenious, far is a reassertion of social and moral justice.

The members of 1982 are very serious about being funny and this material is perfectly tailored to their considerable mimetic, clowning and ensemble skills, their intensely physical acting style and their somewhat cerebral, educative approach.

A similar matching of material to abilities occurs in Cheek by Jowl's *Parties*. A company of six gallop their way through Shakespeare's epic in a series of dumbshows and signal characterizations. It's a marvelous narrative: a quest embracing reversals of fortune, wicked stepmothers, comic fishermen, deaths and resurrections, leading not to something strange and wonderful, but to something wonderfully familiar.

Declan Donnellan's production is attractively done, but rarely touches the magic the play needs if it is to be anything more than a glorified adventure story. The awakening of Thaisa's amnesia and the awakening of Thaisa were lyrical exceptions, but the drawback of the placid presentation is that what is gained in clarity and visual effect is lost in emotional depth.

Ninety-niner

The battle of the books keeps hotting up in the week when the Bpck Marketing Council launches its Best Novels of Our Time campaign. (A selection on which this paper commented caustically when it was announced last November). Anthony Burgess fires off a much more interesting riposte, *Ninety-nine Novels: The Best in English Since 1939* (Allison and Busby £2.95). All his choices "have added something to our knowledge of the human condition... have managed language well, have clarified the motivations of action, and have sometimes expanded the bounds of imagination," he claims in his preface.

Each book receives its own thumbnail appreciation, some of them excellent little reviews in themselves: a useful prompt for conscientious English teachers, and a splendid crib for lazy ones.

Michael Church

words wrong? (yes) — than in the play. I'm convinced (remembering a stage-struck childhood) that contact between performers and audience can be of greater value than it may seem. Interestingly, the schools' reactions during the performance had revealed a delight in the omniscience of the Inspector and a desire to stich up the Birlings. The Birlings were the enemy: collective guilt was nowhere to be found.

Jill Burrows

Mistero Buffo is at the Traverse, Edinburgh, February 17-19. Parties tours to Sevenoaks, Maidstone, Plymouth, Durham, Galloway, Accrington, Basingstoke, King's Lynn, Bangor and Basingstoke between now and the end of March. Details from 01-439 0978.

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Longman

Sounds unfamiliar

Les Percussions de Strasbourg.
Contemporary Music Network
Concert, Bloomsbury Theatre, February 9.

Threading his way through the jungle of silent gongs, graceful marimbas and sturdy copper timpani Michael Berkeley, in his pre-concert talk, questioned the amiable group of five men and a woman about their work. They came together in the early Sixties, fired with a common enthusiasm for the serial music of Schoenberg, Berg and Webern, and, encouraged by Pierre Boulez, created the first European percussion orchestra.

At that time there was scarcely any suitable music to perform, but composers such as Xenakis, Stockhausen and Messiaen have since provided over 80 works for the repertoire and together with the group have revolutionized the instruments themselves. Messiaen includes chromatic cowbells in his later works, Xenakis has devised the Six-ten — 6 keyboards of 19 metal strips each, capable of making 109 different sounds. The most important influence, the group deferentially acknowledges, is the music and instruments of the many Eastern and African countries who welcome its tours.

The London concert programme demonstrated the astonishing range of musical possibilities to be found in the section of the orchestra which in

western music has been traditionally relegated to a supportive role. Four constellations from Xenakis's *Pliedras*, a work of detailed mathematical precision based on a non-western scale bearing some resemblance (in the words of the composer) to a scale from Ancient Greece, featured wood, skins and metal in turn.

In only one of the three works that made up the programme did improvisation occur — *Telephonie V* by the Japanese composer Yoshihisa Ueda: percussive vocal interpolations, softly vibrating keyboards, gentle tapping rhythms, jingling bells, and an insistent African-sounding drum ostinato throbbing centre stage. The opening piece, *Aera* by Francois Bernard Macho, reminiscent of Eastern temple music, relied on Thai gongs for bass resonance, overlaid with delicate floating sounds on marimbas and xylophones.

Les Percussions de Strasbourg combine insight into contemporary music with technical virtuosity and physical energy. Any teacher feeling restricted by Ott in the classroom should try to hear them — live or on record.

Philippa Davidson

The group will perform at Manchester (Royal Northern College) on February 18, and Sheffield (Leeds Mill) on February 19. Educational demonstrations precede both concerts.

Brave face

Little Arrow Meets the Grizzlies.
Rika, Children's Theatre.

In order to prove himself a man and earn a man's name, 12-year-old Little Arrow, Red Indian brave, has to perform a daring exploit — to return to his tribe with either the spoils of war or of a successful hunt. His problem, he soon finds, is that he can't bring himself to kill any of the animals he comes across. This is quite understandable, really, because the world created in Rika's play is sanitized and safe. Even a stylized killing would be out of the question.

The puppet and this are all of the child's world, and the Red Indians are the closest and most accessible of his

to see and the characters are as two dimensional as the Disney cartoon-style set. The tribe's chief inexplicably speaks in a Russian accent.

There's no doubt that the play offers a lot of fun (of the look behind you gangbangle variety) but teachers and parents who arrive expecting their children to learn anything about Red Indians, or the moral issues surrounding killing for food, will leave disappointed.

Eventually, having split hairy a drop of blood and actually helped a bear by pulling a thorn out of its paw (yes), Little Arrow finally earns the right to be called a man by warning the tribe of an attack by the punks like Pawnee. Villains, then presumably sent on to found the first all-vegetarian Red Indian tribe.

Nick Baker

Paradox

Brie-a-Brie and Kuddelmuddel.
Triangle Theatre Company, ILEA
Modern Language Centre, February 9.

Les Amours de Jacques le Fataliste.
Compagnie de l'Esquif, Institut Français, February 9.

The paradox of the actor, Diderot says, is the artificiality he must employ to convey emotion spontaneously through someone else's words. The language learner is caught in a similar paradox, activating well-drilled responses at the moment of performance to express anger, gratitude, affection, indignation or regret without mistaking the position of the object pronoun, muddling genders or confusing tenses. One day, all this may become second nature, but until then abroad is a theatre for which we must rehearse in the classroom and the language lab.

We learn by watching as well as by taking part. The Triangle Theatre Company offers its 40-minute presentations for first and second-year students of French and German in the belief that drama can convey the affective element in language learning. In other words, they suggest that there is more to be had from learning a language than the half kilo of cheese and the return ticket to Bordeaux, *à l'vous plait*, which tend to block the communicative horizons of CSE and O level role-play.

So, using a piano and a minimum of props, they show us what happens when a burglar breaks into the dentist's, an old lady goes to feed the ducks and a garrulous English tourist accosts a woman on a train. There is enough English explanation to guarantee that no one should feel intimidated (though some pupils may share my resentment at being asked to sing the opening song), and it is all done with enthusiasm by the four members of the cast. Essentially, the German and French shows are the same and the cast are pretty convincing in both: they nearly had me believing that it is *une polle*, a louse which was due, no doubt, to a long train journey from Cardiff and the paradox of pretending to teach an audience of teachers.

Later in the evening, at the Esquif, illuminated Diderot's paradox through his adaptation of his novel *Jacques le Fataliste*. With three actors (Maurice Antoni, Jacques Boulin and André Widmer) for the two parts of Jacques and his master, wearing wig or cap according to which character they happened to be playing, it made a point to about social roles and neatly brought out the ambiguity of the master-servant relationship.

This was certainly not a production for the learner, but one to remind teachers that French does exist outside the classroom and, perhaps, to introduce advanced students to the most delightful figure of eighteenth-century French literature. Like Sterne, Diderot loved eccentricities, recording their views and idiosyncratic gestures with a keen eye and an affectionate ear. How can one fail with such material as the homespun philosophy and earthy loves of Jacques? The only disappointment was to see the theatre only two-thirds full for this production by an accomplished and imaginative provincial company.

Robin Buss

The Triangle Theatre-in-Education Company, directed by Carmen Jacob, is based at the Sherman Theatre, University College, Senghennydd Road, Cardiff.

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BOOKS

A loving Papageno

Mozart and Constanze. By Francis Carr.
John Murray £9.50. 0 7195 4091 7.

Do we need yet another biographical study of Mozart? I approached this book with doubts, but they were soon dispelled. As the title implies, it focuses on Mozart's relationship with Constanze, his wife. The marriage was opposed by his father on what at first seemed to be snobbish grounds, but as Mr Carr's tale unfolds, it appears his judgment was sound. Constanze appears to have been small minded, self-centred and not really to have been in love with Mozart. "Love me half as much as I love you," he writes beseechingly when she is taking a protracted cure at Baden and he is working in Vienna. Ironically, she outlived him by half a century.

We all know, of course, that "Mozart died a pauper," but Mr Carr's research shows that we are all wrong. He shows that Mozart was certainly not a pauper, though he was indeed buried like a pauper, in an unmarked grave. Why? Here I am in a dilemma. I could make this review very exciting by summarizing Mr Carr's explanation. But since his study begins like a perceptive review of familiar territory, it would be unfair to give away the plot. Suffice to say, for those whose knowledge of Mozart's fate is based on Peter Schaffer's hit play *Amdemus*, that it was not Salieri.

Mr Carr's chapters on the death and burial of Mozart make gruesome but immensely intriguing reading. Re-viewing the accounts by previous biographers he subjects them to penetrating analysis on crucial points, like a detective questioning very evasive witnesses. The outcome is to make his own solution to the Mozart mystery, immensely plausible as well as deeply disturbing.

What has all this to do with the music? Little that can be told to schoolchildren, but it shows Mozart as a loving Papageno (a part he loved to sing) searching (in vain?) for his Papagena. It sees reflections of his personal life in *Così fan tutti* and *Don Giovanni* and more generally suggests that it is astonishing that so much musical genius could be distilled from so much frustration. It also reveals the tragedy of Mozart, in the proper sense of a great man destroyed by a human flaw.

Mr Carr's book is comparatively short but tells us a great deal, with considerable scholarship deftly deployed. Always interesting, it gradually becomes absolutely enthralling.

Roy Shaw



An illustration from the Longman Handbook of Orchestral Instruments by the Diagram Group, a team that specializes in illustrated information books. (Longman £3.95 and £2.50.) A more detailed notice of this title will be included in our special Extra on Reference Books scheduled for May 18.

lingo

That the British *lift* is the American *elevator* is a fact of language. That the American robin (*Turdus migratorius*) is a larger thrush than its British counterpart (*Erithacus rubecula*) is a fact of language and a fact of biology. That the American robin is a harbinger of spring ("When the red robin comes bob-bob-bobbin' along...") whereas the British robin is a symbol of winter ("And what will the robin do then, poor thing?") is a fact of language, of geography – and of culture.

Like the robin, the brass band has deep connotations in America and Britain. Its whole web of working-class associations is quite present in the United States, where brass bands conjure up images of parades with their

imitable drum majorettes.

In America, *public utilities* (like the Gas Board) are private companies under government supervision. In Britain, *public corporations* (such as the BBC) run certain nationalized services or industries. So the American *public utility* is, as it were, a private company presenting itself as virtually nationalized, whereas the British *public corporation* is a nationalized enterprise presenting itself as virtually independent. Here, too, differences of language reveal differences of cultural orientation.

Aggressive, in the positive sense of "assertive" or "self-assertive," the OED Supplement records first from Canada in 1930, in an advertisement for an "Aggressive clothing salesman," but not from the US till 1959, nor from Britain till 1966. As late as 1972 the Supplement labelled it "Chiefly US and Canadian colloq." Does it still seem so now?

Robert Ilson

New music

The New Grove: Bach Family. By Christoph Wolff and others.
Macmillan £8.95. £4.95. 34370 0.

The New Grove: Beethoven. By Joseph Kerman and Alan Tyson.
Macmillan £8.95. 0 333 35825 2 £4.95. 35383 4.

The New Grove: Masters of Italian Opera. By Philip Gossett et al.
Macmillan £8.95. 0 333 35823 6 £3.95. 35383 8.

The New Grove: The Second Viennese School. By Oliver Neighbour, Paul Griffiths and George Perle.
Macmillan £8.95. 0 333 35824 4 £3.95. 35384 6.

Pathway to Music. By Antony Hopkins.
Dent £8.50. 0 460 04580 6.

New Encyclopedia of Music. By Alan Blackwood.
Ward Lock £5.95. 0 7063 6254 3.

It was an inevitable but undoubtedly good thing that the publishers of *The New Grove* should decide to reprint selected entries in book form. The Macmillan series is rather misleadingly called "composer biographies" since there is substantial discussion of the music, as well as historical background. Beethoven has a volume to himself, whereas JS Bach is accompanied by 13 of his close relations and a fascinating family tree listing some 80 musical Bachs from 1561 to 1845.

The *Second Viennese School* deals with Schoenberg, Berg and Webern, while *Masters of Italian Opera* includes entries on Rossini, Donizetti, Bellini, Verdi and Puccini. There are also separate volumes available on Handel, Haydn, Mozart and Schubert.

It would clearly be foolhardy to attempt criticism of the high quality scholarship that has been brought to bear in all of these volumes – scholarship that has, in the case of *The Bach Family*, been considerably updated since the original dictionary entries of four years ago. The same volume still contains a few confusing cross-references, though, between work-list and text. The famous *Toccata and Fugue in D minor (BWV 565)*, for instance, is referred in the work-list to a plausible, but clearly wrong page – it seems like a computer error that has escaped editorial notice.

Andrew Pegge

Strings attached

The String Quartet. By Paul Griffiths.
Thames and Hudson £12.00. 0 500 01311 X.

The string quartet, like the novel and the watercolour, is one of the most civilized of artistic forms. The concept of four equal partners engaging in intimate, rational discussion is especially appropriate to the Enlightenment, which is one reason for the quartet's sudden burgeoning at the end of the eighteenth century. Early Romanticism, with its cult of the artist as hero, found no place for the string quartet after Beethoven, the only Romantic still to have complete command of the classical style, had brought it to perfection. But it revived, and found new strength in the first half of the twentieth century. Today it might not be too far-fetched to see its continued existence as a touchstone of contemporary culture.

Paul Griffiths is an excellent historian of the medium. His knowledge is impressively wide; his writing is objective, jargon-free and lucid, though this is probably not a book for those who cannot read the 82 finely-printed music examples that illustrate the text. *The String Quartet* is full of insights. Comparing Mozart and Haydn, he notes a crucial difference of approach in their near-contemporary 2 and 4 quartets, opus 33 number 2 and K428 respectively. "Haydn's music is carried forward by argument, Mozart's by the need for balance and resolution... his tendency is to make everything theme where Haydn makes everything develop."

David Mathen

Dictionary entries tend to read rather more dryly than specially written biographies, of course, but *Beethoven* runs to 216 pages of biography, discussion of works, personal characteristics, posthumous influence, work-list, bibliography and index. Computer technology has allowed the original dictionary text simply to be photographed and re-distributed in book format.

"Surely not another book on appreciating music," writes Antony Hopkins in the Preface of *Pathway to Music*, and one cannot help thinking that the author himself sighed somewhat resignedly at the prospect when approached by the publisher. (It is hard to imagine Hopkins himself taking the initiative for this one.) The pathway Hopkins forges leads us, step by step, among the intricacies of orchestral playing and musical form through the fictitious eyes and ears of one Keith Malcolm and his friend the conductor of the local youth orchestra, Mr Roberts. The master-pupil dialogue in didactic texts has a long and distinguished history, of course, but readers might have to approach his updated version with considerable good will.

For all its cringe-making analogies, Hopkins' book is considerably more lively and vivid than the *New Encyclopedia of Music*. Here we have all the facts (not quite all) about music, tidily packed away and categorized under such inspiring headings as *History, Musical Instruments, Musicians and Music Forms and Terms*. The last two contain dictionary-style alphabetical entries covering in appearance a wide range of musical topics and personalities: Beethoven to *Wibye to Weill*, *fugue to fudge*, *closer scrutiny*, however, the volume seems to have stopped short at a rock music (no Peter Maxwell Davies, indeed), and a misleading sentence about synthesizers. Otherwise, the book covers competently, if dully, all the usual musical topics.

In the works

Experiencing Comprehensive Education. By Robert G Burgess.
Methuen

Robert Burgess has written a useful and readable book on comprehensive schooling that should be of importance to practising teachers as well as sociologists and educationists. The book is essentially a descriptive study of a new, purpose-built, Roman Catholic comprehensive school which was opened in 1969.

The study, which was based almost entirely on participant observation in 1973/4 is noticeably dated. Who has heard of Donny Osmond and which pupils can recall Princess Anne's wedding to Mark Phillips? More importantly the study omits issues like the core curriculum, the effects of financial cuts, falling rolls and staff redeployment which would almost certainly have featured in the case study material had the research been conducted 5 to 10 years later.

It is important not to dismiss the book on this account. The study was always intended to be a partial ethnography, concentrating on certain issues and sectors of the school life. In this respect the book represents an important addition to the literature because previous studies of schools have tended to omit detailed study of the head's role in shaping the school and the teaching staff's response to his initiatives. One other area on which Burgess concentrates is the teaching of "Newsom" pupils and once again he provides us with descriptions that are rare in the published literature. It is clear, in these central parts of the book, that while the events on which the analysis is based are now 10 years old, the issues to which the analysis relates are important, up to the minute concerns for teachers and pupils.

Burgess' description of the new headmaster, shaping and designing a new comprehensive school reveals more vividly than other analyses of the comprehensive reorganization why this reform resulted in so little change. We find the new headmaster hand-picked for the job, the *crème de la crème* of his profession, woefully inadequate to the task. Not only is he unaware of the accumulated research on school structure and their effects but he is also apparently unaware of the experiences of the early comprehensive. Certainly he seems to have

made all the mistakes made by the new London comprehensives in the late fifties and early sixties. He combined a rigidly differentiated academic curriculum inherited largely from the tripartite system that the comprehensive school had replaced, with a house system borrowed from the public schools.

In his rhetorical presentation of the school the headmaster refers to the values of the family. However, Burgess shows that in reality the house system is largely coercive with a significant amount of physical punishment and the academic system is discriminatory. As one pupil describes the school: "It is like a prison with windows." The major principle on which the head bases his leadership, to lead by example, is finally compromised when he clashes with the local authority over the "day off" for Princess Anne's wedding. When the pupil walk-out, which he helped to ferment, looks like affecting his career he turns on the pupils and staff who participated and punishes them.

It would be comforting to suppose that this "failure of leadership" was an atypical example drawn from the disasters of the education system. On the contrary it would, in my experience, be fairly typical. However, before we lay the blame entirely on the unfortunate headmaster we should at least contemplate the massively contradictory demands our society places on the education system and the impossibility of actually fulfilling them. Equality of opportunity is only one of many aims that is sacrificed as soon as others, like examination success or career advancement are pursued too vigorously. This brings us quite naturally to Burgess' account of the Newsom group.

The Newsom pupils at Bishop McGreggor School are those who have been rejected by the system: it is a special provision. Despite this "specialness" the pupils inhabit the parts of the school that no one else wants; they have teachers whose main interest and responsibility is elsewhere and they have little or no equipment. They are the pupils to whom the notions of "equality of opportunity" and "family" do not apply.

This is not a strident complaining book. It is a calm, quiet account of how a school works and what actually happens.

Collin Lacey

Anti-misogynism

The Book of the City of Ladies. By Christine de Pizan.
Picador £8.95. 0 330 28324 3 £2.95. 28173 9.

Although the publicity angle, or "selling point" of Christine de Pizan's *Book of the City of Ladies* concentrates wholly on its status as a medieval feminist tract by possibly the "first professional writer", there is no reason to believe that this is an adequate, or helpful, description of it. Country tracts, though written by men and dealing with men's behaviour to and relationships with women, were a firmly established tradition. The vernacular had, in France, become an acceptable vehicle for literary expression. Humanism was an emergent preoccupation: almost exactly contemporaneous with the *Book of the City of Ladies* is Bruni's *Dialogi Petrum Hispani* (which deals with the question of justice) and of political and moral rectitude) although at this time, admittedly, humanistic writings were less common in France than in Italy.

Christine de Pizan's tract follows conventional lines: the use of allegory (the appearance of the Ladies Reason, Rectitude and Justice are reminiscent of Boethius in his *Consolation of Philosophy*), the lengthy listings and

invocations of *exempla* and *auctoritas* (with Boetius as a hot favourite); the use of etymology as *topos*; and the question-answer form which structures the book's development.

Words such as "feminism" have little semantic value when applied to the fifteenth century. The *Book of the City of Ladies* is anti-misogynist; it is radical in so far as it offers an alternative to the women's history. And of course, the fact of its being written by a woman for women is an assertion of feminist awareness; it is, in modern terms, an exercise in consciousness-raising. However, the problem of the relationships between the sexes is unsatisfactorily resolved, at least in terms consistent with a modern liberal viewpoint. Christine advises women "not to scorn being subject to your husbands". Women are generally identified as being the wife or daughter of some particular man.

In a sense, however, the publishers may be right in appealing to a wider, extra-scholastic readership (the book has a print-run of over 12,000) in that feminism – or at least women's issues – has seeped into the general consciousness. And one need not be a scholar to appreciate Earl Jeffrey Richards' scrupulous and enlightening annotations.

Nigella Lawson

BOOKS



China's punks – from a superb collection of photographs by Liu Heung Shing of a society emerging from oppression. China After Mao: 'Seek Truth From Facts' will be published by Penguin on April 26.

Map reference

The World Atlas of Revolutions. By Andrew Wheatcroft.
Hamish Hamilton £12.95. 0 241 10993 0. £7.95. 11 023 8.

Which shelf should this book go on? Is it geography, history or politics? For adults or children? In some ways this ambiguity is welcome; nothing shakes the trees into the context of the woods and produces sudden enlightenments quite like a good cross-disciplinary study. In this case anyway it can just go on the shelf marked Large Books with the other glossies, but in the interests of sales it might have been as well to make it clearer just what market is aimed at.

There's a certain lack of precision too in the subject matter. It turns out that only modern revolutions are included, so we can forget about Helot risings, Jewish risings, peasants' revolts, in fact everything before the American War of Independence,

which Andrew Wheatcroft believes "was the first revolution of the western world", though his sub-title "The World Turned Upside Down" has an honourable earlier provenance.

After 1776 revolutions come thick and fast, but then all kinds of events are included as revolutions, from the Indian Mutiny and the unification of Italy, to Nazi Germany, Vietnam, Cyprus and the civil rights movement in the United States. What is a revolution? We're left to wonder. Apparently not necessarily rapid change, not necessarily successful, or violent, not necessarily a social overturning. Back in the preface we find that Mr Wheatcroft has abdicated the responsibility for telling us, referring us "for a full discussion of what is and what is not a revolution" to his bibliography.

Perhaps it's unfair to carp that his bibliography doesn't even include Hannah Arendt. For although there is as much text and illustration (including some compelling photographs) as car-

tophography, after all this is an "Atlas", whose purpose is to inform as much through the immediacy and simultaneity of maps as through the printed word. With limited colour but a variety of symbols the cartographer has produced clear informative maps. Including town plans such as the one of Petrograd which comes dramatically with a timetable of events from October 24-26 1917, as well as larger scale maps. Each topic begins with a location map blocking in the area under study in colour in its continent. Apart from fascinating map add-ons (and there are a lot of us about), this is a book for supplementary rather than initial study of a topic. Thinking in configurations rather than sequentially step by step is a useful skill; the maps certainly do provide an additional perspective, and if they encourage more schematic thinking too, so much the better.

Jessica Saraga

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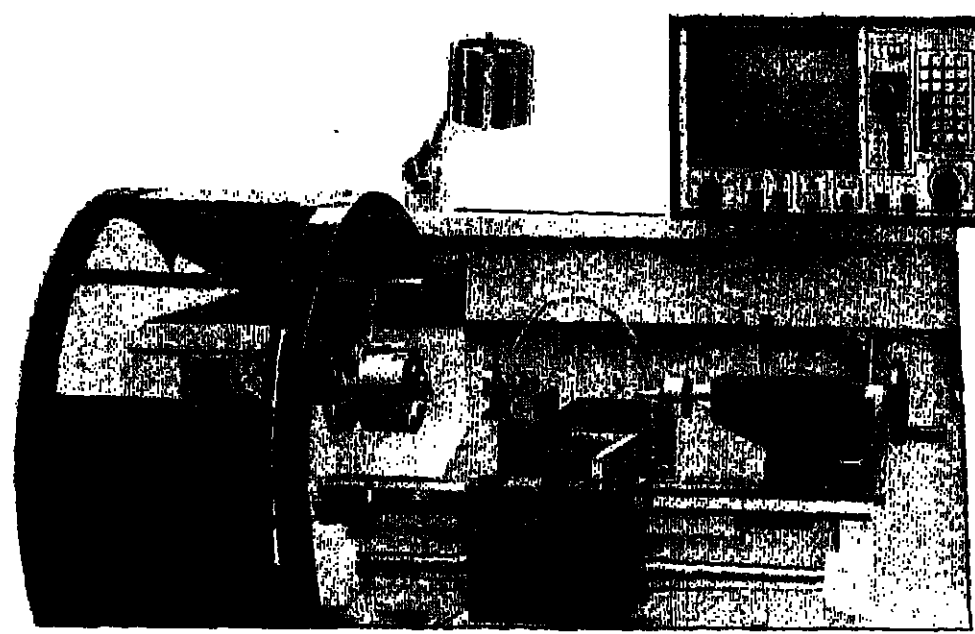
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RJE



Here and on the next page we begin a two-week survey of courses, equipment and instruction technology available to local authorities under the Government's Technical and Vocational Education Initiative



Some i.e.s. who have submitted

In the practical subjects, existing CSE courses have not provided the motivation for the less able pupil. Employees in manufacturing industry see very little value in a CSE grade 4 or 5. Woodwork or Metalwork TVET schemes for low ability pupils have often included pre-vocational courses such as City and Guilds or the London Institute Foundation Level courses, perhaps in Engineering or Construction. Several new courses, specially designed for the Youth Training Scheme, are being introduced by City and Guilds.

Many authorities will be preparing Pupil Profiles and records of achievement for pupils on TVET schemes beginning in September 1984. A working party of the School Technology Forum has already produced a paper on the subject.

nationalwide programme of dissemination of teaching materials and ideas for structured courses up to O level and A level GCE. They have received a grant from the Industry/Education Unit of the Department of Trade and Industry to provide a programme of in-service education for teachers.

A team of experienced teachers will provide ideas for modular courses in Technology and Control Technology and A-level Technology. There is little doubt that the British School Technology In-service courses will be particularly relevant to TVET.

Technology courses involving the new technologies require large quantities of expensive equipment which prior to 1971 were only available in a few universities. In the last 10 months a number of commercial firms have in consultation with the National Centre

RESOURCES

continued

uits can be interfaced with the micro-computer.

Flamefast Technology benches can be used as microelectronics work stations. At the back of the bench is a shelf to support a monitor for a microcomputer system. Several authorities have used the technology benches in mobile technology buses or mobile computer studies units.

Specially designed four position electronics work stations are equipped with 12-24 volt AC outlets for soldering irons and additional work surfaces for VDU or oscilloscope. The multi-function design of the Flamefast Technology benches offers an attractive system for TVEI authorities to set up technology rooms or buses.

British Thornton Ltd also provide an excellent range of benches suitable for equipping TVEI technology workshops. For many years British Thornton have made first-class drawing tables, which are suitable for the Graphic Communication elements of TVEI courses. British Thornton have recently introduced a computer aided graphics system called "COMPAS 2D" which operates with the BBC model B microcomputer, single disc drive and Microvite colour monitor. COMPAS 2D consists of operating software (floppy disc and additional memory chip), DT 1000 A3 size digitizer tablet and MP 1000 six pen A3 flatbed plotter. The system is ideal for teaching computer aided graphics to TVEI students.

British Thornton Ltd also sell a range of technology tables and tray storage units which are suitable for work stations and the storage of small components for electronics, mechanism and structures courses. These tables can be used for graphic communications courses as well as technology structured courses.

Economics (Education) Ltd sell not only the text books and work books for structured technology courses, but also the hardware kits. Fischertechnik and Meccano kits are available for mechanisms courses in both modular courses in Technology and Control Technology.

Electronic components kits and pneumatic components are available from Economics for the Electronics and Pneumatics modules. Electrical switching equipment and electronic components mounted on plastic trunking are sold in the Danum-Trent Kits for Control Technology.

Many TVEI authorities will be thinking about including Computer Numerical Control (CNC) work as part of the manufacturing technology work in their technology or engineering courses. Several CNC lathes are now available for training purposes. Boxford Ltd, who have been making reliable, sturdy, well-designed metal working lathes for many years, have recently introduced a CNC training lathe (the Boxford MCL) and an advanced CNC lathe (the Boxford ACL). The MCL training lathe is controlled by a Sharp microcomputer, but Boxfords are soon to introduce the software for control by the BBC model B micro.

Although the Boxford ACL lathe is really a production machine it is a very impressive CNC machine tool for TVEI courses. Both CNC lathes have their own high resolution 12 inch visual display unit and operate with conventional ISO programming systems.

Another 46 i.e.s will soon be ordering equipment and establishing technology rooms and engineering workshops ready to commence TVEI programmes in September 1984. In the near future there are still some hurdles to jump. One of these is the need to establish with examination boards suitable examination syllabuses which include technological areas of work such as manufacturing technology, CNC machine practice, microelectronics and control applications and robotics. Many authorities will also need to think seriously about the provision of introductory or "taster" courses on technology. Teachers in the London area have already produced a structured technology course for the early years of secondary education. This is called Capital Region's Technology Capability syllabus.

Equipment suppliers:
Flamefast Ltd, Pendlebury Industrial Estate, Manchester M27 1FG. Telephone 061-793 9333.

British Thornton Ltd, PO Box 3, Wythenshawe, Manchester M22 4SS. Telephone: 061-998 1211.

Economics (Education) Ltd, 4 Orgrave Crescent, Dove House Industrial Estate, Handsworth, Sheffield S13 9NQ. Telephone: 0742 690801.

Boxford Ltd, Whitley, Holfax, West Yorkshire HX3 5AF.

The National Centre for School Technology, Trent Polytechnic, Burton Street, Nottingham NG1 4BU. Telephone: 0602 418248.

Roy Pickup is Inspector for Craft, Design and Technology with the London Borough of Croydon.

Andrew Fluck looks at equipment for business and computer studies

With the sudden injection of cash into schools expected at the start of TVEI, it is important for us all to weigh our priorities and needs. Assessing our priorities we would like to look at the context students will move into. Most proposed schemes will concentrate on basic business techniques and high technology or computer based methods. In Milton Keynes we have the Diploma in Microcomputer Applications, which teaches the fundamentals of wordprocessing, databases, spreadsheets, accounts, word processing, etc. Other courses are similar in their demands to practical work in the school. The environment of the modern office encompasses a whole range of information storage, accessing and presentation techniques, and we would want our students to be familiar with the most widely used and important of these.

The most prevalent pieces of technology in the office must be those dealing with document copying. From use of the gestetner, it is a short step to reprographics using spirit duplicators, offset litho and photographic copiers. Some of this equipment may be part of the school stock, and we only need to organize a time when students can have access. It is important that academic and administrative use be coordinated with consideration which applies also to the use of another important medium of communication - the telephone switchboard.

Training on a switchboard is essential for an understanding of the crucial role it can play in a firm. The basic procedures can be taught on even a plug or manual switch version, and there must be many of these being given away as the electronics move in. There might also be a call for British Telecom to introduce cheap trainers for their modern exchanges (like the Monarch) into schools.

Combining the spoken and written word, we are finding various forms of dictaphones in commercial use, but rarely in schools. Audio-typing from desk-based or pocket recorders is increasingly popular, and it should be easy for educational establishments to provide training or experience of their use. There may be a call here for the Microwriter, which is becoming the executive's new form of thumb twiddling on the computer screen.

Practice sets of up to four Microwriters can be obtained to plug into the BBC micro, together with some adventurous programs which teach the keying method.

It is unlikely that schools will be able to produce their own microfilm, but I should expect microfiche readers in the library. If the librarian can be persuaded to transfer some of the periodical subscriptions to the new format, there might not only be more space on the shelves, but this would give simple material on which to practice using the reader.

The entire province of information handling is fast being taken over by computers. And it is on this topic that the remainder of this article will concentrate. In the business studies class, tasks are often set by the computer, range from keyboard practice, and

tuition, through simple filing systems towards business games, spectacular accounting and predicted cash flow illustrations. In the realm of written communication, the art of a good typist is fast being aided by word processing, while many large company groups are beginning to share information in private viewdata networks.

How can the business studies teacher hope to keep up with this influx? It can be easy. Order any good school micro with a disc drive, and you will generally be able to obtain reasonable software for all the operations I have mentioned. However, if you really need to give your students an effective training in the use of information processors, you probably need a Network.

You can, in an office, use a computer for a single simple function, and get away with using a tape recorder to store the programs or data. But in a teaching situation, everyone needs to be using the same program, sharing the same data files, and changing to a new program again at the touch of a button. Without a central disc unit, or at least a shared printer, life can be impossible.

There are many approaches to this problem. Starting with the inexpensive about £50, you could get a copy of WACE from the West Midlands RLC of MEP, and connect that 380Z to your 480Z or BBC micro. This is a very effective way of sharing disc space and with their Network 5 version, is brilliant for the common use of a printer.

We have adopted MACE as a general purpose network within the computer laboratory for the use of computer science students. Why only for program writers? Because MACE has one big drawback. It cannot manage standard data files - just programs. So in the office studies context, we could load all the terminals with a spreadsheet program, but we could not save the spreadsheet on disc for use next week. Since the silicon office relies upon the efficient storage and retrieval of information this is a major drawback.

From this simple approach, you have to move to a standard network using one of the microcomputers commonly found in schools. The reported Spectrum network has not had time to make sufficient impact on the market, but both the RML Chain and Acorn Econet have been around for about a year. Both of these are competent and highly useful in the computing laboratory or commercial studies teaching environment. Both allow the sharing of disc files, and of a printer.

At Stantonbury Campus, which is one of several schools using a course devised by the Milton Keynes Industry Education Liaison Committee, a joint initiative between schools and local industry, the course aims to provide instruction in microcomputer operation, and the use of business software such as financial spreadsheets.

take machines home at the weekend for practice. The network fileservers handles all the data files, but we can change filing systems quite easily to use tape or disc.

Our network spreads throughout our central resources complex, and is being wired across the whole campus. We can expect to accommodate over 20 terminals working all day long at the end of summer approaches. While a group of students uses the software for study, another group can be playing adventure games to improve their language skills. We are expecting to add a Scorpio or Winchester disc to the network to provide much more storage space, and we will be able to add over 200 more terminals to the existing wiring.

Other schools in the area of Milton Keynes have been using the Chain network, with a 380Z fileserv and 480Z terminals. They are limited to 16 terminals, but seem to manage adequately. Without BASIC in ROM the network is slow to start and is about 90 per cent more expensive to obtain than Econet, for roughly equivalent facilities.

Software is also much more expensive, but the CP/M compatibility can bring the classroom very much closer to those offices outside the school gate. For instance, a student who can demonstrate total familiarity with Wordstar has a great potential for employment. So has a student who understands the principles involved, and has used a wordprocessor. One difficulty with the RML set-up is that programs that work over the network do not necessarily convert to stand-alone use on the 480Z. There is this problem with Multiplan, the spreadsheet program, and with the wordprocessing programs like WORD and TREC, though obviously work on these is proceeding.

Beyond networks, what are the alternatives? Well, with stand-alone computers you can do quite well. At about £700 per machine, it would suit cost effective to buy up to seven sets before the networks really become cheaper. One teacher is seriously thinking of requesting Torch computers for his business studies TVEI students. These are at the top end of performance and price, and are very much at the cutting edge of the technology installed in British commercial organizations.

Andrew Fluck is Head of Computing at Stantonbury Campus, which is one of several schools using a course devised by the Milton Keynes Industry Education Liaison Committee. A joint initiative between schools and local industry, the course aims to provide instruction in microcomputer operation, and the use of business software such as financial spreadsheets.

Next week

TVEI: continuing our survey of technical and vocational equipment. Paul McGee looks at resources for information technology.

briefings

radio & tv

For schools

DOCUMENTARY RE-RUN
(Monday, 11.00 ITV)
"Nine Miles High in a Hot Air Balloon" is the first of three documentaries about people who embark upon dangerous missions.

SCOTLAND THIS CENTURY
(Monday, 13.38 BBC2)
A selection of archive film gives a view of Scotland earlier this century. "A Century of Film", this week, includes newsreel of Laurel and Hardy's visit to Edinburgh in 1930 and "Sunny Days", a film made to raise money to provide holiday camps for poor Glasgow children.

THE MUSIC ARCADE
(Mon, 14.40, Wed, 11.17 BBC2)
The versatility of the clarinet and other woodwind instruments is demonstrated for nine to eleven year olds. Percussion accompaniment is added to two songs and there is more help in reading music.

JAPAN: THE CROWDED ISLANDS
(Tuesday, 10.35 BBC2)
A visit to the Mazda car factory in Hiroshima introduces a programme for 13 to 16 year-olds on the links between Japanese industry and family life.

Open university

COVENTRY: WHAT'S ANOTHER YEAR, REALLY?
(Sun, 07.40, Tues, 17.10 BBC1)
Two programmes looking at the choices facing school leavers.

THE COCKCROFT REPORT
(Thursday, 12.05 BBC1)
A report of the series on the Cockcroft committee, who looked into the state of mathematics in our schools.

Continuing education

PEOPLE OF THE ISLANDS
(Saturday, 20.30 CA)
A film to mark the centenary of the birth of the film-maker, Robert Flaherty, recalling his visit to the Eskimos.

STREETWISE
(Sunday, early evening BBC1)
Sarah Kennedy gives hints on how to cope if attacked in the street. Explains that self-defence can be verbal, physical or just common sense. One simple "escape" technique is demonstrated in each of the eight programmes.

BETTER BADMINTON
(Thursday, 11.55 BBC2)
Mixed doubles is the most frequent type of badminton played. What are the special skills necessary? Jake Downey offers tips to beginners and club players.

MICRO-TECHNOLOGY FOR RELIGION & VALUES, 1984.

Computer & video material in religious education in schools and churches.

Religious/ethical implications of developments in micro-technology. Viewing materials. Opportunities to use computers. Have instruction. Produce own video films.

BRADFORD UNIVERSITY
Mon 27th April, 1984.

Details from: CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MOVEMENT (79)
6 Chapel House,
Rugby CV21 1JH

MEDIA



Hugh David visits the BBC's SuperStore studio and discovers the latest product - the "roller-coaster"

CHILDREN'S TV
Saturday SuperStore
BBC1, Saturdays 9.00-12.15am.

Strangers to television production would be well advised to keep clear of Studio 7 at BBC Television Centre, at least on Saturday mornings. For on Saturday mornings the place is taken over by *SuperStore* and they would get totally the wrong idea. The live, largely unscripted show which fills BBC1 with a mixture of cartoons, pop videos, news, competitions, phone-ins and chat from 9.00 until 12.15 is just not like any other television programme.

Out on the studio floor even hardened professionals take a while to work out exactly what is going on. The whole place is hot, crowded and really rather noisy. In one corner 25 or 30 10-year-olds sit in what's called the Coffee Bar. Wedged in among them, presenters Mike Read and Sarah Greene laugh and joke. It comes as something of a shock to realise they're actually talking live to some six million viewers - their faces are on the monitor screens suspended from the roof and a microphone snoops just above their heads. Across the way John Craven shouts down a telephone line - "Hi, Reg? Can you hear me? What's the weather like in Florida?" - setting up an interview about the space shuttle for later in the programme.

Goldie the Blue Peter dog goes walkabout, dodging the cameras like a poor while Simon Groom, one of the morning's guests, answers phone-in questions. Spandau Ballet lead singer

Tony Hadley, another guest, who's been leaning on my shoulder and whispering to someone suddenly borrows my pen to sign a few autographs. "Watcher, mate!" *SuperStore*'s other presenter Keith Chegwin calls from his Warehouse set some twenty feet (but a mythical three floors) away.

A whole world away from the fraught tension which TV production usually generates, it's all very friendly, totally informal and totally relaxed: wraparound television. And not just in the studio; friendliness and informality ooze out of the screen for the home audience.

Intentionally so. Rather like breakfast television shows, *Saturday SuperStore*, son of the pioneering *Multicoloured Swap Shop*, and ITV's equally good *Saturday Show* are essentially rag-bags of prefabricated material. The cartoons - *Highly Mouse* and *Commander McBragg* on *SuperStore*, *Tom and Jerry* on *The Saturday Show* - could go out on their own as self-contained programmes; the odds and ends of pop could end up on *Top of the Pops*, *Razzamatazz* or *The Tube*. They could (bits and pieces still might) but current broadcasting thinking has it that their proper place, spaced by such "editorial" matter as the phonics, the competitions and ITV's Sporting Spotlight (fronted by a marvellously willing Jimmy Greaves) is in such "roller-coasters" as *SuperStore* and *The Saturday Show*.

Roller-coasters (offering opportunities for "seamless programming") are flavour of the month in broadcasting circles at the moment. David Hatch,

Controller of Radio 4 has plans for them to cement the cracks between everything from the *Daily Service* to *Desert Island Discs* on weekday mornings. Children's ITV is already some of the way there with an on-screen presenter. Informality's the name of the game - with the quality of the link-man (or man) as the ace. Their easy, laid-back style is the only thing which gives the shows coherence.

Critics might carp at the inanity of much of what they say - it's no coincidence that many are or were radio disc-jockeys - but their style is precisely judged. Out of the chaos of the *SuperStore* studio, Mike Read, Sarah Greene and Cheggers, together with John Craven and sports man David Icke produce something very professional. "They're all marvellous," says the programme's editor Chris Bellamy. "They can go on there and enjoy themselves and communicate that enjoyment to the viewer. But it's not just that. They know they're working to children. Sometimes you'll get a rock star in for an interview and he'll forget, but you can see Mike pulling him back onto the straight and narrow. He never forgets."

Whether we really want our children to be leaping out of bed on Saturday morning to watch *Sunday Ballet* and *Tom and Jerry* - or lying in, glued to the second set, as the BBC believe they do - is not really the point. For once, form is quite as important as content. The roller-coaster has arrived. Remember: you read it here first. And you can see it on a Saturday.

Leisure horizons

SCHOOLS RADIO
In Your Own Time
Radio 4, VHF
Thursdays 10.35-10.55.

Ballroom dancing, mountaineering, writing, dressing up. These were among the possible leisure activities featured in the first three programmes of *In Your Own Time*. The series is the first on schools radio specifically aimed at widening "leisure" horizons for teenagers.

The emphasis is on combating false or outmoded assumptions which might prejudice teenagers against many activities. Ballroom dancing is "not like 'Come Dancing'", a 20-year-old convert explained. It is not "people of about 35 in awful lame dresses".

High seas

CHILDREN'S TV
Jack Holborn
ITV Sundays 4.30 pm.

The television version of *Jack Holborn* may well send people rushing to read the book, mainly because it must be better. It is also different, but then the makers claim on *Jack Holborn* that it is based on Leon Garfield's book. "Based" on the adventures of Jack, an eighteenth century orphan boy who becomes involved in practical exploits on the way to discovering his true identity. There is plenty of action and at this (the television version) excels. It

possible failure, that tends to frighten and depress those not so endowed. It was hard to imagine, as she talked about arriving for her week's work experience already equipped with a story, that she was inspiring, rather than depressing still further, those soon to go on the job market.

Later in the same programme Peter Powell talked about how he became a DJ to Clive Amessbury, a 15-year-old who has his own hospital radio station. The segment seemed addressed to a handful of aspiring disc-jockeys; already equipped with considerable know-how. The bulk of the three programmes, however, was well-thought-out, well-presented, entertaining and, one would hope, useful.

In the second episode a 16-year-old explained how she broke into journalism by doing a week's "work experience" in the local paper during her holidays. She had the kind of confidence and initiative, unclouded by self-doubt or any imaginative grasp of

the truth be told, the real stars are the magnificent sailing vessels riding the high seas and clashing in battles between washbucklers and representatives of His Majesty's Government.

On the human level things are less than satisfactory. At the centre of the action is young Jack, but his role is often a passive one. Patrick Bach does well, but he hasn't enough opportunities to take the initiative to be an action-hero, and as the television version puts emphasis on action at the expense of mystery, this leaves a gap. Encounters which depend on dialogue rather than on grunts and groans are blighted by dubbing (this being a joint British and German production. The effect is wooden.

Heather Neill

Master of impression

by Michael Clarke

Tom Keating on Impressionism
Channel Four, Tuesdays 8.30 pm.

The gilt-framed credits that open each programme in Tom Keating's new and sadly final series ought to alert anyone familiar with the development of Impressionism that this is not for serious students of the subject. Innovative in their technique, the Impressionists were among the first painters to adopt simple frames. But there are other oddities too; Van Gogh, who never exhibited with the group, is included while Degas, who did, is not, and dealing with a movement so dependent upon plein-air painting, is it not avoiding the issue to have Keating do all his demonstrations in the studio?

Faced with the enormous popularity of his earlier, similar series, reservations like these might seem over-fastidious, but it is very likely that most of those regular viewers were amateur artists seeking information and practical tips on how the great painters of the past achieved their effects. Keating undoubtedly has much to offer his audience and watching him build up the picture stroke by stroke is certainly a more concrete way of learning any technique than reading about it in a book. What troubles me about the series is the rather superficial level at which it is pitched.

Anyone since the Impressionists who has tried to paint a landscape out of doors will have recognized the peculiarities of atmospheric light, effects which are so much to do with geography and climate.

The atmosphere particular to Impressionism at its peak is the rather pearly, iridescent air of the north of France, especially the area around Paris, not the intense light of which Keating speaks. Monet and Renoir, like Van Gogh, found that much further south when both had already gone beyond Impressionism.

Nevertheless, despite these and other dubious aspects of the series, Keating, as before, comes over with great charm and dry humour. He notes that the thicker, impasto of the Impressionists "is very expensive form of painting" and comments on Manet's favourite model, Victorine, that her name "sounds like a brilliant advert". He is also ironically self-effacing. In the supplementary programme, *Keating on Keating*, he answers the question "What is a genuine Tom Keating like?" with "Pretty awful!" If I were asked what makes these programmes compulsive viewing, I would have to reply, Keating. His admirers will miss him.



Tom Keating - master forger

Why should Asthma hold back a child's education?

Pilgrims School at Seaford, East Sussex provides education with medical supervision for senior boys, aged 10 years or older. Children whose education has suffered through lack of attendance at state school are able to continue their education at Pilgrims. The school follows a normal curriculum, although absence of a remedial nature are studied more extensively. Pilgrims has a fine CSE and GCE record well above the national average.

Comprehensive medical attention and nursing care is on hand 24 hours a day. Especially a boy's school at present, Pilgrims is able to accept girls if sufficient numbers apply.

Normally places are non-contributory and all fees are met by local authorities, as if you know a child who deserves a place please get in touch with the Headmaster by telephoning Seaford 882887.

PILGRIMS SCHOOL
The Rectory for Schools, ICA, 125 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 9BS.

History's unique contribution

Sir Keith Joseph delivered this address at last weekend's Historical Association conference in London. The topic, "The value of history in the curriculum", was chosen by the association but, as he said, it was "a subject that I would have chosen myself."



Children should be brought to realize that the institutions we most value were won at a price.

It is no part of the responsibilities of the holder of my office to put forward a single model curriculum for all schools. But I am quite clear that we must arrive at a broadly agreed view of what should be offered to all pupils, and what should additionally be available to some. I am clear that history is an essential component in the curriculum of all pupils.

This view does not apply only to the upper end of the secondary age range. Of course history will appear in different forms in the curriculum according to the ages of pupils, just as those offering it should differentiate between their abilities. In the primary phase, for example, history is not taught as a separately time-tabled subject. But it should be present throughout the primary and secondary phases up to age 16; and this should be made explicit in any future statements of curricular objectives for the primary as well as for the secondary phase.

I stress this point because it is sometimes suggested that to secure that breadth in the curriculum, that nearly everyone thinks desirable, it would be enough to guarantee that each child studied a humanity; that geography, say, or economics might be substituted for history. Those other humanities bring their own unique perspectives and have their own distinctive role in preparing pupils for adult life and work. In their subject matter they may valuably interact with the subject matter of history. But they are not a substitute for history.

One can perhaps classify all subjects by the skills and competences which they foster. So, for example, the connections which a child will encounter between historical events will be different in kind from those encountered in, say, science, where empirical evidence leads to conclusions which can be tested by controlled experiments or in mathematics where the steps in the argument do not depend on empirical evidence. At that level there are of course similarities between the humanities, which distinguish them from other subjects.

But on closer examination it becomes clear that

The knowledge, understanding and skills which the study of history can confer are of great value in themselves.

within the humanities, history's contribution is unique. This is brought out in the aims for the subject which the Joint Council of GCE and CSE Boards defined in their draft national criteria for history for the 16-plus examinations. In the study of history, and nowhere else, the chief objective is to enable pupils to gain some understanding of human activity in the past and its implications for the present. As part of that understanding they will be caused to think about continuity and change, similarity and differences, in a way and in a context quite different from their encounter with those concepts in other subjects, both within and outside the humanities.

The knowledge, understanding and skills which the study of history can confer are of great value in themselves. To acquire an interest in the past is itself a cultural acquisition which can enrich the whole of one's adult life. It can become an abiding pleasure and source of intellectual satisfaction. In addition, history teaching can, for example, encourage young people to use their reason as well as their emotions. It can develop skills of analysis and criticism in a situation in which there cannot be a provably right answer, by encouraging pupils to evaluate primary sources of material. That material is, of course, not limited to written documents, though there are many forms of those now available in libraries and in reproduction. It can include, for example, pictures, photographs and films, buildings and street names; and the memories of people who are still alive. So the skills acquired through the study of history can also enhance young people's use of language, numeracy, observation and communication with other people.

History is also indispensable to understanding the society we live in: to an awareness by pupils of the place of themselves, their families and communities in the developing story of the nation, a story which itself involves other nations and peoples. Our society, like many, is the product of centuries of change, and its history throws light on why things now are as they are. It is particularly salutary that pupils are brought to realize that the ideas and values, as well as the material conditions, which they take for granted, were acquired through processes which are often painful and difficult and that the institutions we most value were won at a price in human endeavour: a price that continues to be asked of each succeeding generation.

That is a beginning of an answer to the question "Why teach history in school?" What is not part of that answer, at any rate in my view, is that we wish

to train all pupils to be historians. We do not teach history at school so that pupils can extend the frontiers of our knowledge and understanding of the past. I draw a distinction between the objectives of historical study and the objectives of teaching history in schools. Of course there is much that is common between the two. But the objectives of school history are wider and different.

The fact that pupils are not being trained to be historians itself entails certain difficulties. Let me raise just two of these. First, how far can we expect children in school to develop a historically valid picture of the past? How do the interesting stories about events and people from the past, which are rightly told to young children, condense into coherent views of men and societies as children move through their schooling? To what extent is a certain level of maturity and a certain level of knowledge of the world and of people a prerequisite for such a picture?

And secondly, how may history be selected and presented so as to enable pupils to form such a picture? There are no simple answers. There is certainly no single answer. But these are problems which must surely preoccupy you and which we shall need to consider in depth as we work towards a clarification of the objectives of history in the curriculum.

How, for example, can pupils be helped to make that crucial shift in viewpoint that enables them to look at the past with sympathetic understanding rather than with the incomprehension of anachronistic attitudes? Without that understanding as a first stage, history will appear to be at best concerned with the quaint transactions of unreal characters, and at worst either meaningless, or unrelievedly vile. For example, attitudes towards death or religion which were the normal response of rational men to the universe as it appeared to be are liable to be caricatured as incomprehensible superstition.

How difficult it is to think ourselves into a pre-Copernican moral world. But we somehow need to convey to pupils the fact that, without condoning their actions, we should not condemn intelligent and even noble men who saw no contradiction between humanity towards their fellow men and the institution of slavery; or for whom liberty was a much less significant value than order.

To instil such an understanding is extraordinarily difficult. It has to be developed in different ways at different stages and with different attitudes between pupils. But it should be deepened throughout a child's school career. This, of course, is itself one of the reasons for learning history.

It is, I suggest, only when you have a reasonable degree of clarity about what you expect to achieve through teaching history in schools, and how you propose to achieve it, that you can move on to the question of what is to go into history syllabuses: what geographical areas should be included, what periods should be covered, should a thematic approach be adopted, and so on.

One of the consequences of a clearer view of objectives will, I hope, be the elimination of what I have called clutter. By this I do not mean the

removal of whole subjects. History, as I have made clear, is not clutter. What I would like to see removed are certain aspects of teaching history. Do we, for example, sometimes place too much emphasis on the accumulation of unrelated facts? Is there too much repetition of themes, especially for pupils in primary schools and the early secondary years? Do we fail to make the connections which could be made between the content of syllabuses and pupils' own environment and experience? Is it not an essential part of history teaching to bring home to pupils the implications of what they are learning for life in British society today?

This takes us straight into a group of issues which the Secretary of State for Wales and I deliberately raised in our comments on the 16-plus draft criteria for history. We said there: "one of the aims of studying history is to understand the development of the shared values which are a distinctive feature of British society and culture and which continue to shape private attitudes and public policy."

Of course I recognize that values are shared only in a broad sense: we disagree among ourselves about much, and that is as it should be in an open society. And it is not only values that are broadly shared. There is, in our society, also much shared understanding and shared knowledge. But I maintain not only that it is valid to speak about shared values in that sense, but also that it is that commonality that defines us as a society. It is mercifully the case that almost all the people of this country subscribe, in general terms, to the value of liberty for the individual under the law, and believe that that liberty is least insecure in a parliamentary democracy.

It seems to me that any child who is not given an opportunity to learn how such attitudes have developed and become entrenched in our institutions will be deprived of one of the keys to understanding the society in which he lives. Society too, will thereby be the poorer. He will also be deprived of the opportunity to take a proper pride in what these institutions stand for: not an unthinking acceptance of all that led to their formation or an uncritical belief in their infallibility, but a recognition that others before our time struggled to make things better for their posterity; and that what has been bequeathed to us falls in turn to be improved for the benefit of our successors.

I therefore see an element of national history as an inescapable part of any balanced school history course. For the child brought up in this country, British history has something to convey which cannot, however expert the teaching, be conveyed through Roman history or American history or Caribbean history.

But throughout time, invasions and military conflicts, political, religious or economic movements, as well as exploration and migration, all serve to entwine a particular nation's story with those of other peoples with different origins and cultures. As time passes, the mesh of successive multiple changes settles: the nation constantly emerging from the space is more complex, more often enriched and revitalized and the study of its

history becomes correspondingly more complex and more subtle.

Now I recognize that there is a need for very great sensitivity in matters such as this. The history teacher cannot and should not ignore the fact that his pupils may come from a variety of social, cultural and ethnic backgrounds. The problems which face teachers in this kind of situation exemplify a more general difficulty. The history teacher has to offer his pupils certain facts and to try to explain the relationship between them, and their significance.

His objective is not just to instil a knowledge of facts but to help pupils form a picture of the past which is consistent with the facts. But his pupils are not sophisticated historical researchers. Any picture they form is bound to be simplistic and to reflect their relative ignorance of the world. So there are so many relevant facts, the teacher has to be highly selective in the facts that he presents to the pupils; and the interpretation of these facts which he offers to the pupils has to be appropriate to their knowledge, experience and understanding.

His job is to bring them to the point where they can begin to make their own interpretation of historical evidence, and to adjust and refine the picture of the past by taking account of an increasing amount of historical fact and evidence in a way which that evidence will bear. But as this process obliges the teacher to include some pieces of evidence, and exclude others, he plainly runs the risk that the pupils' picture may at any time be odd or disturbed. So the teacher's professional responsibility as a historian, to avoid bias both in the selection of the evidence and in its presentation and interpretation is particularly difficult to discharge.

For that difficulty arises not only from the immaturity of the pupils but from the nature of the historical study. Much of the evidence is half uncertain, incomplete or inconclusive. Yet history to the historian to suggest an interpretation of the evidence. He has to use judgment in making that interpretation. That judgment is bound to contain a subjective element. The significance which the

The history teacher ought to try to make it clear to his pupils why he favours a particular interpretation.

historian attaches to particular pieces of evidence is bound to depend to some extent on how he views the world—for example, on his beliefs about what motivates people's actions. So to an extent the historian brings to bear on his interpretation his personal philosophy, including his scale of values.

The nature of historical evidence permits a range of interpretation, though obviously not any interpretation whatever, because the interpretation has to stand up to the question: does it satisfactorily account for all the relevant available evidence, itself, let it be noted, an imprecise question. Subject to that important qualification variety in interpretation is not only legitimate—it is the stuff of history.

Since the history teacher is likely to favour one interpretation rather than another in any area of history to which he is introducing his pupils, what he teaches will not be objective in the sense in which, for example, what the physics teacher teaches about physics is objective. The history teacher ought therefore to try to make it clear to his pupils why he favours a particular interpretation and explain that other interpretations are permissible. He is most likely to be able to do this successfully with older and able pupils.

This complicated interplay of evidence which itself not certain and subjective interpretation gives history a specially valuable part in the development of an adult understanding. It helps pupils to understand that there is a range of questions—be they political, economic, social or cultural—on which there is no single right answer, where opinions have to be tolerated but need to be subjected to the test of evidence and argument.

As the pupil progresses in his encounter with history, he should be helped to acquire a sense of the necessity for personal judgment in the light of the facts—recognizing that the facts will often be far from easy to establish and far from conclusive. And it should equally awaken a recognition of the possible legitimacy of other points of view.

In other words, it seems to me that the teaching of history has to take place in a spirit which takes seriously the need to pursue truth on the basis of evidence; and at the same time accepts the need to give and take in that pursuit; and that teaching in that spirit should encourage pupils to take a similar approach.

In short, history, properly taught, justified its place in the school curriculum by what it does for pupils: it prepares the responsible citizen as well as the demands of employment and the opportunity of leisure.

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Nursery Education

Headships

Hampshire

THE RAMBLERS NURSERY
Bramble Road, Southsea.
HEADSHIP GROUP 1 required for September 1984. For details and application forms and a copy of the Nursery Regulations, please apply to the Head Teacher, Bramble Road, Southsea, Portsmouth PO5 1AA. Closing date 4th February 1984. (10006)

Other Appointments

Shropshire

ST. MARY'S INFANT SCHOOL
St. Mary's, Shrewsbury.
Required for September 1984. For details and application forms, please apply to the Head Teacher, St. Mary's, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY1 1AA. Closing date 4th February 1984. (10006)

Waltham Forest

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
MILTON KEYNES AREA
MILTON KEYNES PRIMARY SCHOOL
Milton Keynes, Bedfordshire.
Required for September 1984. For details and application forms, please apply to the Head Teacher, Milton Keynes Primary School, Milton Keynes, Bedfordshire MK11 1ST. Closing date 4th February 1984. (10006)

Waltham Forest

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
MILTON KEYNES AREA
MILTON KEYNES PRIMARY SCHOOL
Milton Keynes, Bedfordshire.
Required for September 1984. For details and application forms, please apply to the Head Teacher, Milton Keynes Primary School, Milton Keynes, Bedfordshire MK11 1ST. Closing date 4th February 1984. (10006)

Primary School Education

Headships

Avon County

SEFTON PARK JUNIOR SCHOOL
Sefton Park, Bristol.
Required for September 1984. For details and application forms, please apply to the Head Teacher, Sefton Park Junior School, Sefton Park, Bristol, Avon BS1 1AA. Closing date 4th February 1984. (10006)

Berkshire

LODNON INFANT SCHOOL
Lodnon, Berkshire.
Required for September 1984. For details and application forms, please apply to the Head Teacher, Lodnon Infant School, Lodnon, Berkshire RG1 1AA. Closing date 4th February 1984. (10006)

Buckinghamshire

MILTON KEYNES AREA
MILTON KEYNES PRIMARY SCHOOL
Milton Keynes, Bedfordshire.
Required for September 1984. For details and application forms, please apply to the Head Teacher, Milton Keynes Primary School, Milton Keynes, Bedfordshire MK11 1ST. Closing date 4th February 1984. (10006)

NUFFIELD HEARING & SPEECH CENTRE

THE ROYAL NATIONAL THROAT NOSE & EAR HOSPITAL
Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8DA

NURSERY TEACHER

required as soon as possible to join team of Teaching, Speech Therapy and Nursery Staff at this hospital's weekly residential unit in Basing for pre-school children with speech and language disorders.

Burnham scale.
Closing date 9th March, 1984.

Job description and application form from The Senior Administrative Assistant, Audiology Division, The Royal National Throat Nose & Ear Hospital. (Tel: 01-837 8855, Ext. 4157).

(2845)

Berkshire

SEFTON PARK JUNIOR SCHOOL
Sefton Park, Bristol.
Required for September 1984. For details and application forms, please apply to the Head Teacher, Sefton Park Junior School, Sefton Park, Bristol, Avon BS1 1AA. Closing date 4th February 1984. (10006)

Cambridgeshire

SEFTON PARK JUNIOR SCHOOL
Sefton Park, Bristol.
Required for September 1984. For details and application forms, please apply to the Head Teacher, Sefton Park Junior School, Sefton Park, Bristol, Avon BS1 1AA. Closing date 4th February 1984. (10006)

Cornwall

SEFTON PARK JUNIOR SCHOOL
Sefton Park, Bristol.
Required for September 1984. For details and application forms, please apply to the Head Teacher, Sefton Park Junior School, Sefton Park, Bristol, Avon BS1 1AA. Closing date 4th February 1984. (10006)

Dorset

SEFTON PARK JUNIOR SCHOOL
Sefton Park, Bristol.
Required for September 1984. For details and application forms, please apply to the Head Teacher, Sefton Park Junior School, Sefton Park, Bristol, Avon BS1 1AA. Closing date 4th February 1984. (10006)

Leicestershire

SEFTON PARK JUNIOR SCHOOL
Sefton Park, Bristol.
Required for September 1984. For details and application forms, please apply to the Head Teacher, Sefton Park Junior School, Sefton Park, Bristol, Avon BS1 1AA. Closing date 4th February 1984. (10006)

(2845)

(2845)

Suffolk County Council

HEADSHIPS

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced teachers for the Headships of the following schools:

DENNINGTON C of E CONTROLLED PRIMARY SCHOOL

Group 1 Ages 5-11 N.O.R. 45

The school is situated in the village of Dennington approximately two miles north of the small market town of Framlingham in the Suffolk Coastal District of the County.

STRADBROKE C of E CONTROLLED PRIMARY SCHOOL

Group 3 Ages 5-11 N.O.R. 142

The school is situated in the village of Stradbroke, a large village in the Mid Suffolk District of the County, approximately eight miles east of the small market town of Eye.

SOMERSHAM COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Group 3 Ages 5-11 N.O.R. 82

The school is situated in the pleasant rural village of Somersham, approximately seven miles north-west of the county town of Ipswich. The appointments for the above posts will date from the beginning of the Autumn Term 1984.

Further details and application forms are available from the County Education Officer, Grimwade Street, Ipswich IP4 1LJ (SAR please) and completed forms should be returned by 2nd March, 1984. (2928)

PRIMARY HEADSHIPS

LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

An Equal Opportunity Employer

LEICESTER ABBEY COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL

HEADSHIP - GROUP 1 + S.P.S.

Headship required August for this multi-ethnic school, entering for approximately 550 pupils plus pupils for 75 children. The school is a Community Centre within the next few years. Candidates should be supportive to community involvement.

Details on request (SAR).

Apply (no forms) with curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of two referees to the Director of Education, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester LE2 8SP by 24th February, 1984. (65582) 110010

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

PARKLANDS LOWER SCHOOL

(Spinney, Northampton NN3 1DW)

APPOINTMENT OF HEAD TEACHER - GROUP 3

Required for September 1984, able and experienced teacher for the Headship of this established lower school on the Parklands Estate, Northampton. Number on roll at present 300. Closing date - March 31st.

Details and forms (S.A.E.) from the County Education Officer, County Hall, Northampton NN1 1BQ (65246) 110010

SOMERSET

HAMP COUNTY INFANTS BRIDGEWATER

Head for this group 1 school. Re-advertisement. Previous applicants will be reconsidered.

Application form and details (S.A.E.) from the Education Officer, County Hall, Taunton, Somerset TA1 1JN by 24th February 1984 (65136) 110010

NORFOLK HEAD

required for
Cromer County Junior School
(Group 5)

Application forms and details from the County Education Officer, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich NR1 2DL, sent on receipt of a stamped addressed foolscap envelope.

Closing date for applications: 2nd March, 1984. (2969)

HEADTEACHER

required September 1984:

OCKENDON SHAW COUNTY INFANT SCHOOL (Group 3)

Avon Green, South Ockendon plus Social Priority and Outer Fringe Allowance payable.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified Teachers for the above Headteacher post. Removal and disturbance allowance scheme in operation.

Please send foolscap a.s.e. for form and details to County Education Officer, Central Essex Area, P.O. Box 398, 'A' Block, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1JW. Closing date: 2nd March, 1984. (2984)

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

HEADSHIP - GROUP 1 (JUNIOR INFANTS)

Application for Headship of a school of 360 pupils, Chatham, Kent. Appointment to take effect from 1st September 1984. The post-holder to be returned by 2nd March 1984.

Application forms and further details may be obtained by forwarding a stamped addressed foolscap envelope to the Director of Education, County Hall, West Bridgeford, Nottingham NG2 7QP. Closing date: 2nd March, 1984. (2916)

DOVER DIVISION

WYVERN COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL

WYVERN, Dover, Kent CT15 1LA

Appointment of Head Teacher. Applications are invited for the post of Head Teacher to take effect from 1st September 1984 following the retirement of the present Head Teacher.

Application forms and further details (S.A.E. please) are obtainable from the Divisional Education Officer, Kent CT15 1JW to whom they should be returned by 2nd March 1984.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS DIVISION

ST. MARK'S CE (CONTROLLED) PRIMARY SCHOOL

FRANT ROAD, Tunbridge Wells TN11 3EP

Group 5 Roll 937. Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for appointment from Autumn Term 1984 to fill the vacancy arising from the retirement of the Headmaster.

Application forms and further details (S.A.E. please) are obtainable from the Divisional Education Officer, Tunbridge Wells TN11 3EP, to whom they should be returned by 2nd March 1984. Previous applicants will automatically be considered.

ASHTON DIVISION

ALTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

RECREATION GROUND ROAD, ASHTON, Bolton BL7 9AA

Appointment to take effect from September 1984. Application forms and further details (S.A.E. please) are obtainable from the Divisional Education Officer, Ashton, Bolton BL7 9AA, to whom they should be returned by 2nd March 1984. (64188) 110010

BURSLONDON COUNTY JUNIOR SCHOOL (Group 4)

Long Lane, Bursledon SO3 9BZ. Closing date 27th February 1984.

WEYFORD COUNTY JUNIOR SCHOOL (Group 6)

Washford Lane, Bordon GU35 0RT. Closing date 27th February 1984.

THE HOLME CE (CONT) INFANT SCHOOL (Group 3)

Village Green, Headley GU35 8PQ. Closing date 2nd March 1984.

WEST MEON CE (CONT) PRIMARY SCHOOL (Group 2)

West Meon GU32 1LF. Closing date 2nd March 1984.

Details and application forms available from the Area Education Officer, Southgate House, St. Swithin Street, Winchester, on receipt of a foolscap stamped addressed envelope. To be returned by specified closing date. (2971)

HEADSHIPS

From September 1984

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced teachers for the Headships of these two schools:

GRASMERE NURSERY SCHOOL

ickfield Way, Luton, Beds LU3 2BT. Group 2. This is an 80 place Nursery School.

LANGFORD LOWER SCHOOL

Church Street, Langford, Biggleswade, Beds SG16 8QA. Group 4. Estimated number on roll September 1984 - 100 children aged 5-9 years.

Application forms and further details are available from the Chief Education Officer, County Hall, Bedford MK42 9AP. Closing date: 24th February 1984.

The Council is an equal opportunity employer. (2970)

Bedfordshire

HEADSHIP

WYMINGTON V A LOWER SCHOOL

RUSHDEN ROAD, WYMINGTON, RUSHDEN NN10 9LL

From September 1984

Group 2

Estimated number on roll September 1984 - 31 children aged 5-9 years.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced teachers for the Headship of this Group 2 Lower School. A committed Christian and practising member of the Church of England is preferred.

Application form and further details are available from the Chief Education Officer, County Hall, Bedford MK42 9AP.

Closing date: 24th February, 1984. (2798)

Bedfordshire

HEADTEACHERS

Required September 1984:

PURFORD GREEN COUNTY JUNIOR SCHOOL (Group 4), Purford Green, Harlow.

HIGH BEECH C.E. CONTROLLED PRIMARY SCHOOL (Group 2), High Beech, Loughton.

Removal and disturbance allowance scheme in operation.

Please send foolscap a.s.e. for form and details to County Education Officer, P.O. Box 47, Thredneths House, Market Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1LD.

Closing date: 9th March, 1984.

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER R.C. (AIDED) PRIMARY SCHOOL (Group 3), Hutton, Brentwood.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced practising Catholic Teachers. Removal and disturbance allowance scheme in operation.

Please send foolscap a.s.e. for form and details to the Area Administrative Officer, Central Essex Area, P.O. Box 398, 'A' Block, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1JW. Closing date: 9th March, 1984. (2984)

ESSEX

County Council

Head Teachers

Qualified teachers are invited to apply for appointment as Head Teachers of the following two schools.

Greasley Beauvale Junior School,

Greasley Avenue, Main Street, Newthorpe, Notts NG16 2ET. Number on Roll: 291

Vacant: 1st September, 1984. The vacancy is created by the retirement of the Head Teacher. Salary Group: 5

Spring Street Primary School,

Spring Street, Hucknall, Notts NG16 7BZ. Number on Roll: 175

Vacant: Summer Term 1984. The vacancy is created by the promotion of the Head Teacher to another school. Salary Group: 4

Application forms and further details may be obtained by forwarding a stamped addressed foolscap envelope to the Director of Education, County Hall, West Bridgeford, Nottingham NG2 7QP. Closing date: 2nd March, 1984. (2916)

Nottinghamshire County Council

County Hall, West Bridgeford, Nottingham NG2 7QP



HAMPSHIRE

Headteachers

Required for September 1984:

ST. BEDE'S CE (CONT) PRIMARY SCHOOL (Group 4)

Gordon Road, Winchester SO23 7DD. Closing date 27th February 1984.

BURSLONDON COUNTY JUNIOR SCHOOL (Group 4)

Long Lane, Bursledon SO3 9BZ. Closing date 27th February 1984.

WEYFORD COUNTY JUNIOR SCHOOL (Group 6)

Washford Lane, Bordon GU35 0RT. Closing date 27th February 1984.

THE HOLME CE (CONT) INFANT SCHOOL (Group 3)

Village Green, Headley GU35 8PQ. Closing date 2nd March 1984.

WEST MEON CE (CONT) PRIMARY SCHOOL (Group 2)

West Meon GU32 1LF. Closing date 2nd March 1984.

Details and application forms available from the Area Education Officer, Southgate House, St. Swithin Street, Winchester, on receipt of a foolscap stamped addressed envelope. To be returned by specified closing date. (2971)

EXTRA

MUSIC



A young flautist practicing during school time at the Purcell School

Photo: Susan Thomas

In the front desk

Susan Thomas visits the Purcell School

It is one of life's ironies that while the best music teachers try to protect their pupils from the stresses of too much competition, it is frequently the results of competition which bring in the goods.

Thus the Purcell School, while it doesn't exactly push its pupils to enter for the BBC's Young Musician of the Year Award, has reaped the benefits ever since Nicholas Daniel won the title three years ago. Since then, say the staff, there has been a definite increase in the number of outstandingly musical children applying for places.

Established in 1962 as a coeducational, specialist music school for the 9 to 18-year-olds, it is, along with the Moulton School and Cheltenham's, one of only three such schools in the country, and like them, finding it hard to keep pace with the demand for places.

The school started life in the Conway Hall at Hampstead. In 1973, with the support of the Gardner Trust, it moved to a couple of pleasant Victorian houses in Harrow. Now in its twenty-first year, the place is bulging at the seams - with pupils practising in every classroom, broom cupboard and out-house. Help is at hand, however: a new boarding house, with additional practice rooms is to join the complex - but this does not mean that the school will grow much larger.

"One of the school's greatest strengths," says John Bain, its new headmaster, "is its strong sense of community. To preserve this I think we can't go above a ceiling of 200."

and social group." There is, he says, a marvellous atmosphere of mutual support. He is right.

Later that day I looked in on a rehearsal for the next public concert. At the end of the Vivaldi violin concerto, the entire orchestra spontaneously applauded the soloist and cries of "well done Janice" accompanied her from the room. It is the sort of thing that happens all the time.

The school is notably relaxed and encouraging; partly, perhaps, because so many of the older pupils have experienced the bleakness of life in a large comprehensive where nobody understands your love of classical music or your need to play with other people. "I was an object of fun because I wanted to practise three or four hours a day and the place was so big that nobody knew who I was," explained Val, my sixth-form guide. She is attractive and articulate as well as talented, so this would seem to have been a considerable oversight on somebody's part.

There are, sadly, horror stories of schools where children (not all from deprived areas) have had piano lids slammed on to their fingers, where anyone carrying a violin case is ritually stoned, and life is made miserable for all confessed musicians.

"At Purcell, Val said, there is immense competition to play in the front desk, to be selected for concerts and especially to land the solo, but once that choice is made there is no jealousy."

"Maybe," she said, "we are more aware of each other's feelings because we all understand success and failure as musicians." Music develops simply. "Playing together in a trio or a quartet you almost think each other's minds... you know what people will do before they do it."

Thus pupils from 20 nations and the five continents blend smoothly into the school.

Most children live at home, often travelling considerable distances each day. A few board. More will be able to when the new boarding house opens. The majority of children are fee payers - around £3,000 a year for a boarding place. A few are supported by the local education authority and each year there are six government assisted places. All the pupils take an entrance test which examines both their academic competence and musical aptitude.

Well aware of the difficulties of assessing children from different backgrounds and with different musical histories, the school looks for "a good ear and the ability to convey a sense of music - whether the piece played is difficult or not," says James Young, head of junior music. "It is the quality of music which is most important. Occasionally they bring one of their own compositions - that's a marvellous indication of what they have absorbed and understood." Most, but not all, offer a second instrument.

On the whole he discourages a third instrument. "As they progress and the workload increases it can get too much for them. That is another reason why we have regular reassessments of their progress."

John Bain, like the rest of his staff, is at pains to point out that the school, though specialist is not a hothouse. "And I would hope always to keep available a few places for children who, though able to benefit from a musical education, will never make it a career but who need a school like this - a small, caring, relaxed community: children who don't fit into 'the system'."

Music is integral to the timetable. Juniors have four set periods a week - one session of Kodaly aural training,

one of theory, one of choir and one composition. They also sing twice a week with choirs and are "bound to be caught up with group music-making at some time". Added to this they get general aural training, informal concerts and talks on musical current affairs in a 20-minute slot after break each day. And there are still individual music lessons and practice outside school hours.

Colin Howard is in charge of senior music. Under his guidance the older pupils have a more intense schedule. They are split more formally for aural training and set works. There are two senior choirs and a senior orchestra giving regular concerts at the school, to music societies and, as a culmination of the year's work, in the Purcell Rooms. These are exciting and ambitious affairs sometimes supported by distinguished former pupils - Oliver Knussen, Rober Cohen, Nicholas Daniel.

The November concert, for instance, included the Vivaldi Violin Concerto No. 22 in A Minor, Lord Berner's Luna Park, Stravinsky's Pulcinella Suite and Mozart's Twenty-ninth Symphony.

By the time they reach the sixth form, 80 per cent of the pupils are experienced musicians working for entry to music colleges and university. For most of them it is a full musical diet.

Change and development are essential to any lively school. Thus John Bain hopes to introduce computer studies and design to the curriculum, and the musical side is experiencing a

dramatic injection of aural training with the Kodaly system.

David Vinden, just returned from a two-year course on the Kodaly method in Hungary, is responsible for this work, using tonic solfa with the younger children and sophisticated aural training with the seniors. Colin Howard favours the method. "It is very important for all aspects of music making - for the performer, the composer and anyone writing harmony."

The results are impressive. "It is," says David Vinden, "a question of developing inner listening, two part hearing and aural memory."

In practice it means being able to listen to a phrase of a Bach chorale and sing the top part, while listening to the bass part being sung; then singing the bass while listening to the tenor; and finally, singing the tenor while listening to the alto. Each part twice through. After which a student can write the music and then transpose it to another key.

"I know," David Vinden says, "that I have got through when I hear them singing the chorales for fun - and the juniors go off down the stairs playing with the tunes we have just learned. There is still too much emphasis on music as a written language - music is all about sounds."

The pupils, if not the Associated Boards' theory examiners, have got the message. I arrived at the school to strains of reggae and Baroque and left to Mozart and early music. The pupils may not be wild about competitive team games, but they are passionately devoted to group music.

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Teacher's Book	0 560-01277-4	£4.95

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Book 3 NEW	0 560-03082-7	£2.15

Publication Summer

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EXTRA



Indian street musicians

Broadening horizons

Gordon Cox introduces a new project
"Music in the multicultural curriculum"

"Is there a place for the music of different cultures in the school curriculum?" is a question that hundreds of Berkshire teachers will be considering throughout the first year of a three-year project, "Music in the multicultural curriculum", a joint venture undertaken by the University of Reading Music Education Centre and the Berkshire County Music Department.

On the face of it, the answer to the question seems self-evident. Clearly nothing but good can arise from contact with other musical cultures, especially if it enriches the musical experience of our children. After all, this is only a reflection of what is happening in our national musical life. A glance at the pop music scene of the last couple of years will demonstrate the influence of reggae (Musical Youth), Indian pop (Monsoon) and South American styles (Incantation). By learning to play steel pan our children would develop aural acuity, by performing African drumming they would improve rhythmic skills, and by participating in Indian music, at whatever basic level, they would broaden their horizons as far as improvisation was concerned.

Such a positive view is the response

of the project which in its statement of intent declares that "the deeper understanding of the different musics of the world will, it is hoped, enhance and stimulate current work being undertaken in schools by providing additional musical techniques and skills capable of being used effectively by teachers."

But there are some problems which it is hoped the project will confront. The first is tokenism. Steel bands, for example have been criticized as being unnecessarily limiting and patronizing. I would suggest that it is the "taken-for-granted" assumptions on the part of music teachers, rather than the quality of steel bands that are under attack. There is a danger of similar criticisms about other forms of "ethnic" music in school unless a basic philosophy is carefully formulated and acted upon.

Second is the more general question about whether music is a universal language, and if it is not, what criteria do we use when judging the music of other cultures? This is not just an academic consideration, but has practical implications for music teachers who have to decide whether a multicultural curriculum in music is provided for all, or whether special provision is made for distinct cultural groups. This also influences the practical policy adopted about the relationship between the teaching of "ethnic" instruments and classroom activities.

As far as the project is concerned, there is a commitment to a multicultural curriculum "for all children regardless of cultural background".

Third, the training that most specialist music teachers have received is bound to traditional notation and written tradition. This creates difficulties when it comes to some musical styles that are essentially oral in nature, and this can be met only by in-service training and also considerable help from the advisory service and training institutions.

The project has four levels of operation. First, the development of a rationale for music in the multicultural curriculum, based on the aim of the project which is to develop curriculum theory and classroom innovation in music which is multicultural in scope. The project was launched on January 28 with a one-day seminar, addressed by Dr Keith Watson, a comparative educationalist. Dr John Bally, an ethnomusicologist, Jane Grant of the African Arts in Education Project, and Jill Scarle, a secondary school head of music, well-known for her work in advancing music in the multicultural curriculum.

The second level of operation is the provision of courses dealing with the

acquisition of new musical techniques, and the application of these in the classroom. In the first year of the project, three courses are being offered, dealing with the music of Africa, the Caribbean and India. Each of the courses lasts for two days. The first day is spent in acquiring basic techniques on such instruments as the tabla, the steel pan and African drums, while the second day is spent on ways in which such work could be used effectively in the classroom. Each of the courses will have follow-up sessions for further instruction and discussion. Related to these courses is a workshop session designed to bring practicing musicians from different cultural backgrounds into schools, to work side by side with teachers and children, in order to stimulate interest and encourage practical work in the classroom engendered by the project.

Most of the courses mentioned have been designed for music specialists in primary and secondary schools, but there is also provision for classroom teachers in primary schools who wish to engage in a little music making as a part of their general teaching. There are several one-day courses geared to meet the needs of such teachers, which will introduce a repertoire of song material that is multicultural in scope.

The third level of operation is the evaluation of the courses and of classroom work which will be undertaken by a teachers' working party, meeting on a regular basis to discuss and develop work stimulated by the project. The fourth level will be the production of curriculum materials for which there is a great need undertaken by members of the project team and the teachers' working party. Until recently, musical development in the field of multicultural education have been of an ad hoc nature, led by committed individuals, but often without sufficient support or access to expertise. It is hoped that the result of participating in the project, teachers will have acquired the skills of analysing their current practice in the light of the theory of multicultural education, and that through developing skills in new musical styles and applying them to the classroom they will develop a truly multicultural curriculum in music.

Certainly, the project will help and encourage those teachers who believe that music can play a vital role in the multicultural curriculum.

All inquiries about this project should be addressed to The Music Education Centre, University of Reading School of Education, London Road, Reading RG1 5AQ.

Gordon Cox is Deputy Director of the Music Education Centre, University of Reading.

EXTRA

Original outlook

David Missing outlines the philosophy, aims and objectives of the Greater Manchester Centre for Curriculum Music

When teachers attempt to develop their subject as a curriculum activity they face the daunting task of maintaining what they presently find successful while trying to work out the best of something new. In-service training which takes teachers out of the classroom is frequently not enough; support in the classroom would be more effective but such support is rarely obtainable within a single school. In the Greater Manchester area a centre has been established with a team of six teachers to provide in-school, in-service support for music teachers who wish to develop music as a curriculum activity, learning from the experience of advisory teachers in Tunbridge Wells and Stockport.

The Greater Manchester Centre for Curriculum Music formally began its work last September. Six teachers, seconded from their schools for one day a week, have met together each week to prepare a booklet in which the centre's aims, objectives and general educational philosophy are outlined, and to plan for its future activity.

In trying to establish our philosophy we have moved closer to knowing what we are attempting to do and, though our thought is not original, we believe it to be sound, firm and "ours". It is that music, as a curriculum activity, is not a frill just to be enjoyed or dispensed with at the whim of the headteacher or the local education authority but that it is part of a whole area of experience without which the

human cannot claim to be whole. As such we believe that music, as part of the aesthetic dimension, can demand its proper place in the curriculum.

We believe that music in particular and the arts in general are about people's feelings and imagination and are a product of fantasy as much as a product of concrete experience. As such they are not dependent on the sort of factual information and empirical evidence peculiar to some other academic subjects, but are the individual and personal responses to the creative imaginings of the mind motivated either from within the being or from outside stimuli, and as such are subjective; not assessable nor examinable. (There is little value in assessing the "end product" unless it is being weighed only against other works by the same artist as a means of catching glimpses of that artist's maturation). The world of educational art is not competitive. It is an attempt to establish the arts as an essential educational experience for all people; an attempt to acknowledge that one of a list of human intelligences is the "aesthetic"; that it is separate from, and not dependent on, other human intelligences, and as such requires individual consideration.

We are unhappy that much of a child's educational experience is one of being schooled; having preconceived, predigested knowledge, often unrelated skills taught without a balancing experience - an activity which arises

from within the being. We are greatly disturbed that some arts teachers (especially music teachers) are still making the activity an information-based subject - as though it were first necessary to "know about" before being involved in. We believe that creative artistic activity is as fundamentally natural to the human as is eating.

So we conclude that music (and the other arts) is about feeling and imagination and provides the vehicle for a creative response to fantasy, experience of many kinds and the whole range of feeling responses. We see therefore that the music activity best suited to the curriculum is that of composition. We see no reason why the same children who paint pictures, write stories and poems, make models etc., should not compose music. The "problem" of managing classes of children all of whom are trying to control sound for their compositions is surmountable. Classroom organization in this area has been successfully tackled in a number of ways by many teachers. It has been done.

The Schools Council music project, "Music in the Secondary School Curriculum", brought together many of us who were tackling this problem, often in isolation, and provided a pool of experience to be shared and, equally importantly, a carefully thought out philosophy upon which to argue our case. The Schools Council in conjunction with Stockport Metropolitan

Borough Council established a dissemination centre in 1979 to make available to teachers in the Greater Manchester area the shared experience it had collated and the philosophy it had developed. Most of the 10 I.E.A.s in Greater Manchester eventually contributed to it through a coordinated programme of in-service training courses for their teachers.

It became clear during 1982 that, as the Schools Council funding support for this centre would cease, no single local authority could take over, fund, and organize a continuing centre designed to promote the development of music as a curriculum activity for the whole of the Greater Manchester area. A group of advisers responsible for music was anxious to sustain and develop the centre, and the director of education for Stockport, at a meeting of Greater Manchester chief education officers, proposed the establishment of a properly constituted regional centre.

Of the 10 I.E.A.s in Greater Manchester six have formally committed resources to the project - these being Bury, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan. One or two others have expressed interest in the project but have not, as yet, been able to formally commit resources to the centre. This centre is now established and properly constituted as a centre for school-based in-service training. The chief education officers have acknowledged the need for music as a curriculum activity and the need to provide effective in-service training for their teachers, and that that training is best done in the classroom.

The stated aim of the centre is "to help teachers develop classroom methods which make the creative area of music an active and significant factor in the general education of all pupils". The team will attempt to fulfill its aim by encouraging a general

sharing of ideas through better communication and in-service training courses, but mainly by being alongside teachers in the classroom as they try to develop more appropriate methods. There is nothing more daunting in our view for a teacher who wishes to try out a new idea than to find himself alone and having to think through a whole project, cope with existing demands, measure the success or failure of each element, plan and execute the next stage, and still run the school orchestra. So one member of the team can be attached to that school for a little while and help the teacher in a number of ways (though not by running the school orchestra) during the experiment.

The centre team has spent its first term planning and preparing for its initial programme. Considerable time was spent compiling the booklet, which will be circulated to schools in the six I.E.A.s, and in doing this we clarified our own views on the role of music and the arts in the curriculum. We have visited various schools, and a profitable day was spent at York University with Professor John Paynter, the director of the Schools Council Secondary Music Project. We are delighted that he has agreed to participate in the centre's in-service training programme by conducting its first course. In the last month of the autumn term we have worked in schools to prepare ourselves for attachment to "host" schools next term, and we have also filmed children's compositions to discuss during in-service courses.

The booklet mentioned above, outlining the centre's philosophy, aims and objectives along with a list of resources, can be obtained from Helen Coll at Pendlebury Hill Teachers' Centre, Lancashire Hill, Stockport, SK4 1RD (061 480 8721).

Cautionary tale

Roy Terry examines the French system of music education

In looking at music education in France, the English observer has to take account of two important differences. First, music is a compulsory element of the curriculum in the 11-13 colleges (*collèges d'enseignement secondaire*) where it is allocated one hour a week. In primary and nursery schools it is only "recommended", forming part of a group of "interest-awakening" subjects (*activités d'éveil*). These subjects, which include science, environmental studies, art, etc., are allocated in all seven hours a week.

Second, although general classroom music is controlled by the Ministry of Education, instrumental tuition is provided not by peripatetic teachers but in local conservatories under the control of the Ministry of Culture.

In our own current curriculum debate, we are often urged to consider the advantages of a centralized system of control such as operates in France. Ironically, this is at a time when moves are afoot for greater decentralization there, and when recently-proposed reforms to the secondary system are referred to as "the English system".

A close look at the French system of control is, in fact, far from reassuring. The most serious effect of such control is on curriculum development. An authoritarian "centre-periphery" model is basic to the system, with schools as it were being "colonized" from Paris, with tight ministerial control. A music inspector told me that although music curriculum guidelines, drawn up seven years ago, were produced by a working party of music educators, "it is the inspector's hand that holds the pen".

Central control has encouraged a huge disparity between Paris and the provinces, and Paris schools have the additional advantage of extra peripatetic class teachers for music, art, and P.E. called *maîtres adjoints*, funded by the town council. There is an all-pervading awareness among French music teachers that all is not well, but the situation in the provinces is so bleak that some teachers with whom I corresponded wrote to say that music was almost non-existent in their schools.

Central control has led to the domination of one view of what it is to be educated, and consequently the transmission model of teaching with the main emphasis on "knowing about" music has a powerful hold. Teachers acquire status according to the extent of their knowledge, as measured by highly-competitive examinations which determine both salary and working hours. These advanced courses are entirely academic. Aspects of pedagogy are dealt with in a teaching practice year supervised by over-stretched music advisers.

Attempts at curriculum reform have consistently met resistance from a teaching force indoctrinated with this view of education. Changing to more active methods of learning requires a total change of outlook, and many find this professionally threatening. The system which still reflects a view of the "educated" person as possessing an encyclopaedic knowledge leads to a predominantly musicalological emphasis. It's true that the guidelines are quite expansive at nursery and primary levels, recommending practices consistent with the principles of Orff, Kodály, and their French counterparts like Martenot.

Significantly, courses in these methods are run by the rival Ministry of Culture, and schools do not have the resources in any case. A survey in an school of Normandy showed 60 per cent of classes with no resources at all, 40 per cent with a few unpitched percussion instruments (and this is likely to mean one of each instrument), and only 12 per cent with any tuned percussion. The only equipment definitely provided will be a tape recorder and a record player. The school will be lucky if it has a piano - teachers used to use a kind of mini-harmonium called a "guide-chant", and will now support singing with a recorder or a cassette tape, referred to as "le play-back". Central control is no panacea if it is based on an inappropriate view of the discipline in question and if the provision of resources is inadequate.

A secondary level, where music becomes compulsory and resource implications have to be met, it comes as no surprise to find a sudden narrowing in the scope of the guidelines. What

little performance work may have been done gradually gives way to "appreciation", which means analytic study of the classical and romantic repertoire in the main, plus a little singing. Practical activities meet with little success and fade out because the guidelines recommend teaching young adolescents the elements of *sol-fège* and descent repertoire, activities obviously more appropriate for the primary school.

Whereas music educators here would argue for making available a variety of ways for pupils to get into music, in France the emphasis is on historical studies and formal analysis. There may be a few gestures towards the twentieth century and to folk and jazz. Singing is given emphasis throughout, but one is left feeling that

it is regarded primarily as a medium for teaching *sol-fège* and rudiments. Terminology tends to give the game away: "contact with musical material" doesn't mean working in the medium of sound, but listening to records instead of reading books about the music; "practical work" doesn't mean singing and instrumental work by learning the rudiments of theory.

Voices have been raised recently in The TES advocating that in a time of diminishing resources we should make a virtue out of necessity by returning to a singing-based class music curriculum. A look at France would confirm that you can't have effective music education by focusing on one aspect to the exclusion of all others. Admittedly in spite of attempts at reform, the French teach *sol-fège* in an extremely

rigorous fashion: the ultimate objective is for pupils to read it in all clefs, not just treble and bass. As Arthur Oldham, formerly of the LSO Chorus and now chorus master of the Chœur de l'Orchestre de Paris, told me the result is frustration and boredom, not a high level of sight-singing.

The paucity of instrumental work in schools is, of course, mainly due to its being the responsibility of Ministry of Culture conservatoires, who provide part-time tuition after school and on Saturdays as well as full-time advanced courses. In recent years there has been a vast expansion of this provision, following a presidential call in 1974 to produce a coherent policy for making music education more widely available. The budget increased from 28

continued

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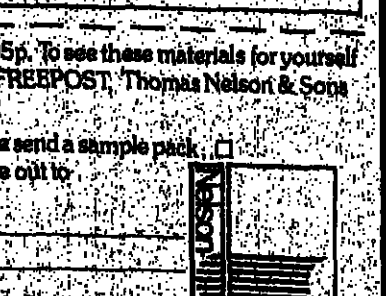
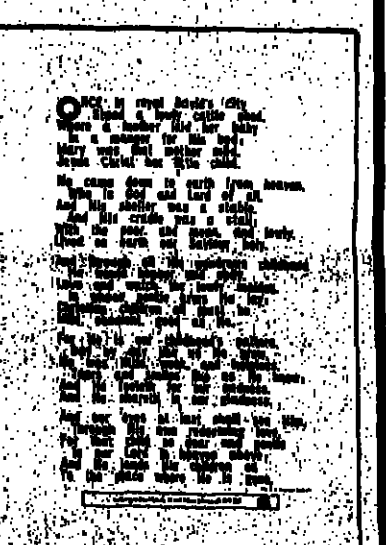
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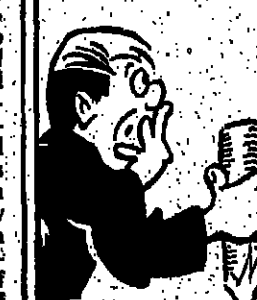
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They are often expected to sing a song without being given a clear indication of the sound of the first note - a feat even the Bach Choir would be reluctant to attempt.

And yet, infancy is the time when our hearing is most acute - when perfect pitch can be acquired - when the teaching of intervals and music notation can be a delightful game - when a few chimebars can be the centre of a music education, leading to excellence of performance and creativity in composing.

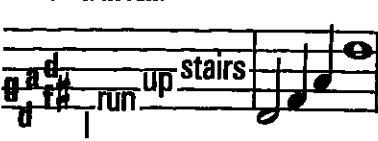
Usually the teacher is the only one with a songbook. The children are expected to rely on their hearing only, which is often hard. Periodic deafness seems as common as colds and catarrh in young children, making it difficult for them to hear especially the high notes.

Infants need to touch - to see and hear is not enough.

The benefits of a songbook for children are evident. Then they can listen to the words and melody while looking at and touching the intervals, as they move their fingers along the lines of words and music. A link between the aural, visual, tactile and kinetic senses can be established and

A game
and a
songBy Margaret
Hartfree

used to teach rhythm, pitch and intervals. In this way the beginnings of sightreading can also be taught early, not only to the instrumentalists, but to all the children.

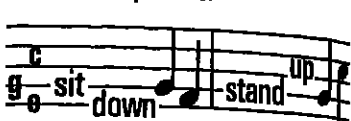


The assumption that some children are not musically inclined and can't learn to sing in tune is simply not true.

Some take months of listening to a single note before they can reproduce it. Some can initially only sing a tune which stays below e. Some arrive at tonality only after the infant school years. One boy, who spent a year in my top infant class as a very loud "growler" and could only just pitch a g at the end of that time, sang his first cathedral solo three years later!

After some time of listening to the g-chime while looking at and touching the "g-hell on the g-line", which shows the first note of an echo-song, starting on g, many children can hum that note even before it is played.

When echo-playing in twos, with two sets of chimebars, the children learn to recognize those intervals, especially if they are associated with well known phrases.



The natural pitch variations in these phrases can be used to illustrate the intervals. Letting the children "do it", when hearing the chimes, will help them to understand descending/ascending pitch. Sitting and standing with eyes closed, relying on hearing only; g-e, g-c, gives a useful indication of their pitch discrimination.

Music notation can be taught as a game and a song, as easy as the abc. A large felt board, where the children can find the lines and spaces for the notes and put their own words and tunes, played on chime bars, is a useful practical aid.

In the infant school, at a time when conditions are most favourable and the children wide open to unbridled creativity, the foundations for a life of musical enjoyment and performance can be laid.

Margaret Hartfree teaches at Christchurch Infant School, New Malden. Material: song books, cassettes and guides are available from the Surrey Music Resource Centre, Church Street, Ewell, Surrey.

Cautionary tale

continued

million francs in 1974 to 115 million in 1980. These institutions form a hierarchy. At the very top are the advanced conservatoires in Paris, and since 1979 in Lyon. Next come the national regional conservatoires, of which there are now more than 30.

Further down are the national and municipal schools of music, and then small rural music studios. Having visited the national regional conservatoire at Boulogne-Billancourt on the outskirts of Paris, I must say that the first impression is of lavish provision and palatial surroundings. In tremendous contrast to the starkness of school music rooms.

Historically, the role of the conservatoires has been to ensure a supply of

professional musicians, and the role of the schools is very much seen as providing amateurs with enough background information to enable them to appreciate their superiors. The guidelines actually state that the purpose of what little instrumental work exists is to show ordinary pupils just how difficult instruments are to master, so that they will all the more admire those with the gift for it.

Corporate amateur music-making suffers in any case because of the highly-developed streak of individualism in the French character. Thus, when Arthur Oldham formed the Choeur de l'Orchestre de Paris in 1975, he found that 70 per cent of his members had never sung in a choir before, although 80 per cent had private singing lessons.

Not surprisingly, one senses a feeling of inferiority among school teachers. They spoke to me, when I visited Paris schools, of conservatoire teachers regarding them with disdain, and of there being no contact between the two sectors. Special music classes have existed for some time now, whereby pupils spend half the day in a conservatoire pursuing their musical studies and the other half in school on general education. Children attending them form a highly-privileged minority. A special performer's baccalauréat (the technical baccalauréat F11) was introduced in 1972 as an alternative to the highly academic A3 music baccalauréat which I was told frightens off even very capable musical candidates.

Yet even where these special classes operate, the barriers stay firmly in position. When I inquired of a music teacher in a lycée with special classes about links with the conservatoire, I was rather sharply told: "We don't need any". Similarly, an official at a conservatoire told me that, compared with a conservatoire first prize, the performer's baccalauréat was "a booby prize".

The Ministry of Education, with apparent reluctance, has agreed to the Ministry of Culture sending anti-maternalists into schools to give lectures, demonstrations and initiate music activities. They are regarded with some suspicion - "just a pretty facade", said an inspector, who saw music education as a rigorous intellectual discipline, by implication incompatible with enjoyment.

Out-of-school activities are a rarity. The primary school I visited in Paris had the Parc des Princes football stadium stages an annual musical/drama production and is quite exceptional. School orchestras are few. I visited a Paris lycée with an orchestra, but as pupils learn entirely outside school in conservatoires and also in classes run by the post office and the railway, they have their own bands and orchestras; the instrumentation is very unbalanced, and all music has to be special.

ly scored by the highly dedicated teacher.

More typical were reports from the provinces of recorder consorts of half-a-dozen pupils out of schools of 900. In general, French teachers stick to their clearly-defined contractual hours. They may possibly put on an hour's choir practice, but they do that knowing they will be paid overtime at double rate.

Although concern has been expressed at the highest levels of government, elitism is deeply engrained. In spite of expansion, the conservatoires cannot meet the demand for instrumental tuition. Democratization has been seen mainly in terms of improving access to the arts and reducing geographical inequalities.

Some teachers are now realizing that views about "giftedness" and motivating pupils are the greatest hindrance to democratization. Sociologists like Pierre Bourdieu have provided a critique of notions of "giftedness", arguing that society mistakenly regards socially-conditioned aptitudes as if they were innate "gifts". Pupils who are regarded as possessing these "gifts" are then the only ones to be given adequate provision. As the miserably principle has become operative in schools, teachers have had to accept that motivating pupils is their responsibility.

In the conservatoires there seems to be no such concern: a "take it or leave it" attitude means that only self-motivated students are accepted. In motivated students are accepted, school teachers are at a disadvantage, because they lack a clearly defined role. In contrast, conservatoire teachers have a secure sense of identity and clearly-perceived criteria of success. In the face of this dilemma school music can be seen to have retreated into a kind of musicolological cul-de-sac.

Rather than attempt a radical reappraisal of classroom music, "the hand that holds the pen" (the Inspector) has identified current priorities as: voice-training; aural training; and reading; music appreciation; and poetry. In other words, if the medicine is ineffective, increase the dosage.

We may conclude that central control can have a narrowing effect on the curriculum, that adequate resources need to be integrated so that as wide a range of activities as possible can be presented. The centralized and fragmented French system provides something of a topical cautionary tale.

Roy Terry is Headteacher at Byron Junior School, Croydon. The opportunity to visit music in France arose while he was recently at the London University Institute of Education.

What price
musicianship?

By David Sigillan



A measure of literacy in a second language should not prove an unduly optimistic aspiration for an average young student after several years' regular tuition, supplemented by both individual and curriculum lessons and up to three hours per week of private study. In such circumstances his literacy might reasonably be expected to include fluency in comprehension and in oral self-expression within that language.

In applying similar propositions to the facility in musical language and notation of a substantial proportion of children receiving individual tuition in addition to "school music", these expectations are inclined to founder.

Few institutional areas of British musical education demonstrate sufficient cognizance of the fundamental importance of training the ear and of acquiring intuitive reading skills at the earliest level possible. Graded examination boards have long ago considered aural and reading tests to inferior levels of mark-worthiness where literacy appears under such subtle misnomers as "Playing at Sight", commanding only 10 to 14 per cent of total possible marks. Ear-training, indispensable in its support of reading faculties, has also attained Cinderella status in its graded context, representing only 8 to 12 per cent of the examination. Observe in the table (below) the feasibility of a pass in any graded examination with nil marks in reading, aural and viva voce sections.

Moreover, in the case of two colleges (listed with an asterisk) even a pass with merit is possible in the same circumstances. Naturally, set pieces and scales would have to be performed to very high standards, but the early publication dates of the syllabuses allow periods of between 16 months (Associated Board) and two years (Trinity College) for practice - time enough for an otherwise inadequate candidate to achieve a mechanical grasp of pieces well beyond his secure technical capacities and accustomed reading levels. Frequent encounters with such cases cannot but subjectively devalue the passes of those successful candidates whose musicianship and musical history is of a higher calibre and worthy of more discriminating methods of assessment.

A revealing anomaly is the bracketed figure printed alongside each section of the Associated Board Candidate Report forms, denoting two thirds of the maximum marks for every part of the examination. Alas, any suggestion of possible enlightenment is smartly dissipated when inquiry elicits the reply that failure to attain the bracketed figure in one or more sections does not invalidate an overall pass.

With the promotion of this curious number to the status of an uncompromising sectional pass-mark and with the abandonment of the "overall" pass, the intrinsic value of the graded system would be enhanced. With the disappearance of the loopholes affecting aural and reading tests, there would no doubt be a decline in the submission of candidates with borderline standards of musical literacy and from the outset there might be a falling off of entries, allied to a reduction in income for the examining boards.

Nevertheless, it would be lamentable if such financial considerations were to prove to be the cause of institutional atrophy in redressing its faults. For while many aspiring young musicians have benefited from the incentives of regular graded assessment, generations of little more than clockwork instrumental automatons have been as surely misled as to the objective meaningfulness of a pass.

In the final analysis however, such inherent ill must be diagnosed as symptomatic of a more profound, organic malaise - the anarchy within musical education itself (outside specialist courses and national academies), epitomized in the diverse profusion of private practices, free lance and county peripatetics, for the most part "island autonomies" of entrenched methods or production lines generating grade examination fodder.

The ill-used peripatetic, frequently incarcerated at basement level in an airless studio reminiscent of an un plumbed WC, could be forgiven for exhibiting greater concern for the ventilation than for substantive musicianship of his cramped pupil.

In private practices there is rarely evidence of inter-tutorial liaison or of any motivation to broaden or refine teaching methods. Manifest exceptions, however spectacular, among schools, teachers and students, do not vindicate the whole; any more than the emergence of a dozen adolescent Einsteins would exonerate similar deficiencies in the education of young physicists.

It would be premature to seek to shortlist remedies before identifying those in greatest need of the prescription. The ultimate victims are not those with exceptional talent or career potential, but rather the majority of those outside this category - more specifically those discussed earlier, unwittingly enduring narrow and mechanistic instruction allied to the vagaries of a mediocre graded examination system, with a rapid seasoning of curriculum lessons, often so bereft of vitality as to suggest a pairing on the four-year options list with euthanasia or terminal raffishness.

The efficacy or otherwise of curative measures will be dependent upon a less complacent acknowledgement of the ill to be redressed. Therapy must be administered as nearly as possible to the source of the disorder, in this case to the most elementary stages of both individual and school musical education, ironically the very areas often characterized by a dearth of both specialist expertise and remuneration.

Nevertheless, it is from such levels that the successful promotion of spontaneous reading and aural skills will achieve its most far-reaching effects, as in the case of the flourishing Hungarian system, where the seeds of intuitive musicianship are sown as early as nursery level, teacher training in which is not open to those deficient in such faculties.

In a country where fluent sight-reading standards are the norm in the average primary school, Kodály's order of priorities for "good musician" places foremost "a trained ear" and hindmost "trained hands". How closely the reverse resembles our usage. How typically perverse that we reserve to Further Education those forms of systematic ear-training most

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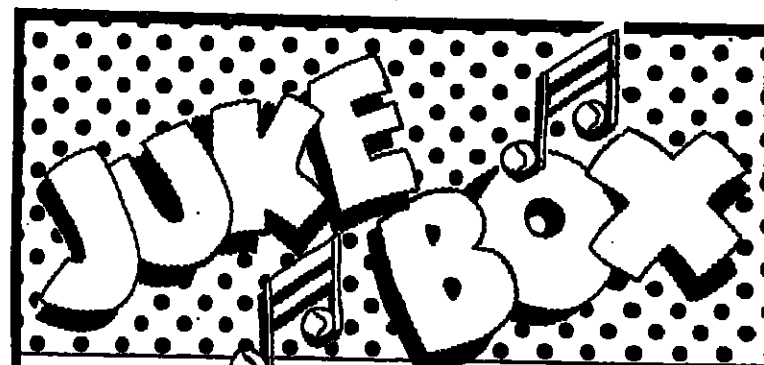
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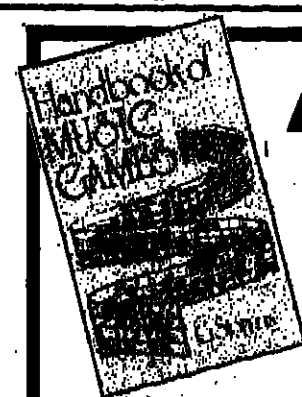
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EXTRA

Creative possibilities

Alan Clayson suggests approaches to curriculum music in the primary classroom

Recently, I surprised three children who were splashing about with their hands in a sink when they were meant to be cleaning painting materials. Instead of immediately compelling them to get on with their task, we explored "hydro-percussion" - the resulting rhythmic patterns being recorded for further research. Similar opportunities in the primary classroom are often unrealized by many teachers as they do not conform to "proper" instruments or "learn" dictates.

Other strategies emerge less irregularly. Like creative writing, musical composition may be stimulated by discussion of suggested titles followed by "sound essays" based on them. If this play is unsatisfactory, a "chance operation" may be attempted such as the example below.



(a) From A to G, six letters are randomly selected - say EFDABD -

which, treated as musical notes, are re-arranged as a simple two bar phrase, see above.

(b) After rehearsing this by ear on instruments at hand in any available octaves, two hands between one and six replace the corresponding notes and are regarded as rests.

(c) The players repeat this with two different numbers.

(d) The second bar is then regarded as a general rest which, with necessary repetition, can be filled with individual "solos" in imitating leitmotives or noises, according to a preordained rota.

All operational phases should be noted for use as a final "score" which, with a conducting system, must suit the idiosyncrasies of the piece. The preceding illustration, for instance, may ultimately look like this:

FED BAD x2/FED BSD x2/FE3 4AD x2/FED + solos/FED BAD x2.

Other notation methods may be devised if the music is not easy enough to play by memory. Although the outcome will undoubtedly be a racket,

With trying initially for one child to sketch an impression of a musical process for the others to interpret as they think fit, for example:



From these abstract squiggles, more precise methods may be compiled which can progress to a conventional five line stave via variations of medieval procedures, whereby pitch is indicated by placing notes above or below a single line which represents, perhaps, middle C.

Use of bar lines may be instigated by rhythmic presence and awareness - particularly as a steady beat is the engine room of primary music giving cohesion and structure. Not necessarily stressed, it needs to be monotonous in the best sense. Democracy is not critical as fully exploited intuitive timekeepers prevent a nervous, poorly coordinated child's enjoyment of music being undermined by a teacher's heavy patience. Other devices include tape loops, drum machines and spoken rhythmic phrases. From my own experience, all the examples I have mentioned were centralized by a regular pulse.

From any of these ideas, an *ostinato* or "riff" may evolve which can trigger interrelated experiments with harmony, scale or, in some cases, improvisation. However, the most logical development is simple counterpoint. Elementary models are contained in countless medieval items. Because it sounds credible by relying on uncomplicated patterns without modal intricacies, medieval music is a useful

resource. An essential series for study is *This Merry Company* (OUP, 1979) which is specifically designed for the junior classroom.

Owing to the limitations of audio equipment in most primary schools, musical performance is most conveniently sustained in a non-retractable situation where erasure or change is impossible. However, there is good reason to keep the seemingly outmoded reel-to-reel domestic tape recorder in school, as much modern serious music by the likes of John Cage or Gavin Bryars uses tape recorders as instruments.

Although often more intriguing intellectually than aesthetically, supervised tape research - collage, editing and looping - may take place with children, providing an extra organizational care is taken. Looping, for example, is helpful in establishing a source for rhythm, *ostinato* or continuous sound effects. There is also scope for a limited amount of multi-tracking. From these techniques, ideas may evolve with children frequently becoming audience to their own programmed experiments.

If this seems daunting, rather than plunging in with *Fantasia Mix* or *Jesus's Blood*, more accessible initiation may be found in pieces such as *Peter and the Wolf* or *The Toy Symphony*. Topic work on stories and background from operas, ballets and the more savoury aspects of composers' lives may be useful supplements.

Further stimulation may surface from quiet interpretations of well-known melodies (eg *William Tell* by either David Whitfield or the Pitoumen Men) or music from other cultures. Though medieval, "classical" or

electronic music may hold interest, the unstrained stylistic determination of most primary children ranges from playground chants and doggerel to sophisticated pop. Like skiffle before it, the Punk breakthrough in 1977 gave anyone with a little imagination who mastered basic techniques a chance to succeed. It forced many "real" musicians to stop smirking at each other's cleverness and attempt to reach pre-adolescent audiences.

Though sensibilities may balk at watching *Top of the Pops* every Thursday, occasional glimpses at the Top Thirty may help to gauge class musical interests especially as familiar songs and structures (eg the 12 bar blues) recur *ad nauseum*. After considering timbre - sound differences between electric guitars and wooden xylophones - versions of his may be arranged for small classroom groups on the understanding that results will be approximate. By temporarily shelving my inbred sense of tonality, I have conducted infants through certain celebrated works in the anarchy but recognizable style of the Portsmouth Sinfonia.

Ultimately, the most crucial variables in curriculum music are the tastes and abilities of individual teachers. This broad diversity inhibits uniform conceptual control of curriculum macro-structure. However, this is no criticism because unless a child is seriously learning an instrument or rehearsing for a formal event, total regulation is next desirable as it tends to remove adventure and fun from arguably the most abstract of subjects.

Alan Clayson teaches at Caversham Park C.P. School.

Sines of the times

By Alan Coggins

The mere mention of the word can have a dramatic effect. Depending on the audience, it can be a centre of attention, a near-insult, the way to ruin a dinner-party - but seldom is there a complete absence of reaction to the word... synthesizer.

Fearing, revered, variously described, whatever the personal view, it's very clear our... is here to stay. The whole issue of what we do with the thing, how we are to use it, has been debated at great length by the Musicians' Union and other professional bodies. It is time surely to look at the educational approach, and to evolve some sort of policy on the use of this development in musical instruments.

"Wanted... synthesizer ace". Advertisement in a local paper in connexion with the establishment of a jazz-rock centre for beginners. How does one teach synthesizer? So often now, a scant knowledge of the keyboard, coupled with the number of voices the designer first thought of, divided by the amount of money available, results in what many is a synthesizer performer. Given the frequent occurrence of "string" voices on many designs, it is not surprising that string-players react violently against the electronic box.

We have had examples of producers wanting to use two violins and a

stringbox instead of a string section. We find now that even in student productions there is a move towards actually replacing strings by the electronic substitute (overheard from a student: "It'll save the bother of rehearsing a string section"). Then we have the brass and woodwind voicings - regarded again by many as an easy way out.

If there are to be any genuine studies in the use of the synthesizer, then those students must be taken through a whole course covering the characteristics of waveforms, the capabilities of various modulating devices - in other words, they need to know and understand the basic palette of the soundbox (and, of course, in a number of institutions such teaching takes place already). The problem of an electronic dual society emerges when some performers can actually plan a sound in advance, and create new sounds through understanding the devices at hand, and other "artists" spend vital studio time in uninformed switching and hoping.

Perhaps one way to achieve recognition and acceptance of the synthesizer as a "real" instrument is to establish a real training in its use, and to stop using it as a substitute. This attitude has to be encouraged from the very beginning - and many schools possess electronic studios. There is, then, a responsibility for teaching the right approach to electronic composition, not only in higher education but in schools where studios exist.

In turn this demands of the teacher a certain attitude; a responsible definition of what a synthesizer can do - and should not do. It demands a balanced critical approach: recognizing with a very basic keyboard technique, let alone on an electronic keyboard, are frequently led to believe that they are making huge musical strides when in fact the instrument is simply going through its paces. If we remember Schumann's famous remark concerning Chopin: "Hats off, gentlemen - a genius!" it might be worth calculating the opposite end of the range, this in turn might put into perspective the thousands of three-chord "artists" currently held in esteem by many, and help to establish unbiased attitudes from unions, fellow-professionals and critics. Instant foods we may have, but few great chefs use them. Instant music

There is a huge expansion in the use of computers in schools; the establishment has accepted their existence and use. Surely it is time now to begin real education in electronic music, using computers and their peripherals? It

may well be that there are now more schools equipped with electronic studios, large or small, than with pipe organs, or bassoons. Some examination boards recognize instrumental ability as a part of O and A levels - they include the conventional instruments, but how soon will the synthesizer become acceptable? How long must we wait before the first O and A level syllabuses appear which really cater for the electronic student?

It will happen, I would suggest, when work really starts on the compilation of a suitable teaching programme, for use with O and A level music students. A programme which includes the everyday devices of the synthesizer, which teaches the student to create and build new sounds, to mix them, to listen critically to the results, and, perhaps most important, to reject the rubbish. A programme which destroys utterly and completely the idea that this instrument is going to replace most (if not all) of the others.

Perhaps our aural training should include an excerpt from an existing work - the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto would do nicely. Compare a few bars of the solo part, played by violin, with the same bars played by an electronic "violin" voice. Can't tell the difference? The choice is simple - learn music very quickly to distinguish, or give up music and go for something else.

Do I hear in the background the sound of many pens being put to paper, the protestations of "But we're already doing that"? Splendid - tell the world, including the MU and its liaison officers: for in those corridors of power the fear has in one or two cases become a total misunderstanding which prevents true electronic composers from realizing their own original work. Everyone in the business knows that our music education industry turns out some remarkably good youth orchestras, choirs, jazz groups, soloists etc. What is happening in the field of electronic composition and performance?

Young Musician of the Year 1977 in Electronic Music, what a welcome change it would be, and - dare we say - forward-looking? Fear of the instrument will disappear when it is finally seen as having its own voices for its statements, and original statements at that. From what I have heard and read, Bach was pretty switched-on already - and, French cuisine being what it is, does Debussy really need Toulouise sauce?

Alan Coggins is Associate Lecturer of The Middlesex Polytechnic.

EXTRA

Participation pop

Nick Baker reports on a Rock School workshop session for teachers



approaches to practical work - in the space of a day.

None of the 23 music teachers and advisers at the Bristol session were in any doubt that music of this kind does have a place on the curriculum. All nodded in silent agreement as they watched a videotape of last year's competition, introduced on BBC's *Nationwide* by Professor Keith Swanwick of the University of London Institute of Education, who said in support of the Rock School idea: "You can't teach pop music from an 'I know it, you learn it' position. Many children may know more about it than the teacher, so it's a question of participation."

Nic Bourne's philosophy is that teachers should make their approach to pop music consistent with their style of teaching, so that it can fit in with a

syllabus for the first three years of secondary school. He also favours the participation approach used in primary school music, rather than teachers having classes simply reproducing musical ideas "dished out" to them.

One of the biggest problem areas is getting pupils to listen to the sort of music that they daily use as "aural wallpaper", Bourne suggests, that teachers should allow children to study the lyrics to songs while they listen, as well as encouraging them to focus on specific aspects of the music. He asked his class of teachers to listen to the Police's *Don't Stand so Close to Me* and write down literally everything that struck them about it. Perhaps surprisingly, while all the teachers were able to make some comment about the musical structure and content, none commented on the controversial lyric: "Young teacher, the subject of schoolboy fantasy..."

However, Nic Bourne suggests that top 20 pop material shouldn't be used as "models" for imitating in practical work. His approach to the playing of pop emphasizes simplicity and accessibility. With this in mind he introduces a numerical system for keyboard playing and soon has a willing quartet of keyboard players performing a recognizably "poppy" piece. The teachers are admittedly all keyboard players to start with, but Bourne's instructions as to how the piece might be varied and developed are straightforward and effective.

Bourne has a novel way of stimulating lyric writing, often something that music teachers compartmentalize as being the domain of the English teacher. Brandishing a copy of the *Sun*

he suggests that often, banner headlines can suggest song titles and choruses. He focuses on one: "BLAME ME!" It shrieks. It certainly sounds like the title of a chart-topper. He also found in his own teaching experience that getting boys to sing - a problem that seems insuperable in some musical situations can be achieved if it's their own original lyric that they're singing.

With the teachers on the course showing their appreciation by madly scribbling notes, Bourne goes through a number of helpful points, including how to use percussion effectively without damage to the eardrum, how to achieve and simply notate those difficult reggae rhythm patterns, how to develop melodic lines over straightforward chord patterns and how to extend pop music playing to areas outside the curriculum.

For the practical part of the workshop, Bourne divides the teachers into three groups and "commissions" three different pieces - one Reggae, one twelve-bar blues style piece complete with an "anti-cliche" ingredient and one straight pop tune. All are required to have accompanying lyrics.

The teachers, true to their role as a third year class, can't wait to get their hands on the enticing selection of electronic keyboards, electric basses and percussion instruments available. Bourne has deliberately not supplied any electric guitars, which he finds too daunting to music teachers and usually too much of a distraction to all but the most skilful of pupils. The pieces the teachers present, some hours later, range from creditable to accomplished.

For an event that's wholly sponsored



from commercial sources, there's a pleasing lack of sales talk in the final session. One of the teacher's main problems is that the instruments they've used in the workshop would, if purchased by a music department, bite a sizeable chunk out of its budget.

Bourne responds with the good news that the instruments are becoming cheaper, and that a reasonable monophonic synthesizer can be found for as little as £100. He also introduces his own set of worksheets, *You Can Write Pop Music*, which sensibly allows free classroom photocopying rights.

The Rock School Workshop does show that pop music in the classroom can be worthwhile fun. It also shows that teachers can't ignore the changes that the new technology is bringing to music making. A second wave of microchip technology, "Artificial Intelligence", will soon allow computers to take an active part in the composition of music, using simple tunes that have been fed in by pupils.

Market choice

Martin Walley reviews a range of synthesizers available for schools

The evolution of the synthesizer has taken place at a remarkable rate since the emergence of the crude machines of the 60s. This is a result of developments in electronics and the subsequent use by a greater number of composers and performers in all fields of music.

The earliest synthesizers were bulky, expensive and subject to many problems such as tuning instability. They belonged to the recording studio mark the positions of the controls when a good sound is obtained; with non-programmable instruments it is very easy to come up with a marvellous sound and then be unable to reproduce the setting of the controls to reproduce it.

The choice of synthesizer can be very daunting and the first step is to decide what use is to be made of the equipment - will it just be used for teaching and experimentation in the classroom, or will it be required for performance use by the school rock band or to provide incidental music and sound effects for the school play? Financial considerations will probably govern the choice of monophonic synthesizer (which allows only one key to be played at a time) or polyphonic synthesizer which allows more than one key to be played at a time depending on the number of voices (six voices - six keys). Monophonic instruments can be obtained for less than £200 and polyphonic from around £700.

Monophonic synthesizers such as the Yamaha CS5, the Korg MS10 and MS20 are most suited to classroom experimentation. The CS5 specification includes one VCO with a choice of two waveforms (sawtooth or square wave) and a six-position octave selector switch (2 to 64). VCF, VCA, EG, a pitch bend control and a three octave keyboard. The CS15 has two VCOs and each of these may be modified independently by individual VCFs, VCAs and EGs.

Only one key at a time can be played - if two or more are pressed only the highest will produce a sound - but the oscillators can be tuned in unison or any interval. Apart from the greater

clade settings which can be used as a starting point in the early stages of operation. Pupils of all ages will enthusiastically spend lengthy periods of time investigating the effect of carefully adjusting one control and, after a little practice, trying to imitate the timbre of an orchestral instrument or a sound heard on a record, providing invaluable experience of listening and analysis. Copies of a diagram of the face of the synthesizer can be used to mark the positions of the controls when a good sound is obtained; with non-programmable instruments it is very easy to come up with a marvellous sound and then be unable to reproduce the setting of the controls to reproduce it.

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EXTRA

Report from Germany

By David Biermann

On the face of it, the small Bavarian farming town of Dillingen-an-der-Donau has little to offer the casual visitor other than a pleasant view over the river Danube and a curiously named local brew known as Konvikt-bier. In actual fact, however, Dillingen watches over and looks after the education of Bavaria, West Germany's largest land.

Dillingen's *Akademie fuer Lehrerfortbildung* (Academy for Educational Advancement) offers all Bavarian state-school teachers the opportunity to attend improvement courses in every subject taught in the region's schools. In the next six months, for example, nearly 350 courses are being organized. The costs of teachers attending all these courses, including travel, accommodation and tuition expenses, are borne by the land, and all teachers are expected to attend at least one appropriate course each year. Would that all teachers in Britain had such marvellous opportunities.

I was extremely fortunate to receive a Council of Europe grant to attend the course on "Song accompaniment and instrumental playing", held from January 2 to 5 this year. All the other 30 teachers attending the course were general-subject junior school teachers and also teachers at schools for the mentally and physically handicapped. Two lecturers, Wilhelm Lehr and Konrad Diebold organized the entire course, which was divided into five parts:

- 1) A general introduction to all manner of percussion instruments;
- 2) The use of these instruments in accompaniments for songs and instrumental dance tunes;
- 3) Their value with regard to different styles of improvisation;
- 4) Learning in small tuition groups how to add acoustic guitar, electric bass guitar and keyboard accompaniments - for each instrument there were both beginners' and advanced groups;

the teacher of their particular instrument.

At least this is the case with the so-called prestige establishments with royal charters. One effect of the tables, however, is to emphasize the similarities of provision - Leeds College, Dartington and Colchester being exceptions. (Colchester appears to be the only establishment both equipped to deal with and actively encouraging handicapped students.)

The picture depends to some extent on the questions asked, of course: two that were not concern range of opportunities for pianists (some colleges restrict entry in this category) and provision for teaching "minority" instruments such as harpsichord, cornet, gambe or saxophone.

A more serious omission is information on the entry policies for different instruments. Some colleges now restrict entry according to orchestral proportions, while others go solely on ability. Prospective singers need to know which establishments operate the undergraduate solo singer ban, and to what extent, but this information is not included.

What is surprising is the seemingly small periods spent in ensemble music making - four to six hours is common, though the LCM, RCM and RNCM provide up to 12 hours. The prospective student cannot, of course, from this document gauge opportunities for extra-curricular playing, and this alone could determine a final choice. "Opportunities" like "broad", "basic", "wide", "high", "advanced", or "all-around" are words that any intending student should be extremely wary of in college prospectuses. There are more than enough of them in this booklet.

Andrew Peggie

Market choice

continues... range of available sounds, the CS15 has the additional advantage of a headphone socket for individual listening by the player without the need for external amplification. The Korg MS10 and MS20 have similar specifications to the CS5 and CS15 but they use patch cords - short leads which plug into sockets on the front panel - to connect the various modules, allowing greater flexibility and possibly an increased understanding of what is being connected to what.

The Korg Poly-61 is a five-octave, six-voice polyphonic instrument with a 64-program memory which can be transferred to cassette tape. Although the recommended retail price is £995, it can be purchased for less than £700 and easily meets most teaching, experimental and performance requirements of a school. Each voice consists of two DCOs and the overall effect can be likened to controlling six two-oscillator monophonic synthesizers from one keyboard.

Classroom experimentation is made easy because of the eight-second tape interface facility which allows the player to save his individual programs in the same way that computer programs are stored. The sound quality of the Poly-61 is remarkable and, like the CS15 and MS20, a headphone socket enables an individual to work without disturbing anyone.

All of the synthesizers described would require some form of external amplification for group listening and performance. With a suitable lead they could be connected to a hi-fi system, a guitar or PA amplifier and speaker, or, more conveniently, a "combo" which includes both amplifier and speaker in the same unit. Costs can be kept down by second-hand buying or by building speaker cabinets for drive units obtained from firms such as Wilmow Audio, Cheshire.

A keen fifth or sixth-form constructor might even consider building his own monophonic synthesizer such as the Powertran Transcendent 2000 (£165 plus VAT) which is supplied as a kit, complete with all components and casing.

Instruction manuals for particular models and manufacturers' literature are both good ways of becoming familiar with the range of products available and most shops will be happy to give good demonstrations and detailed advice. Publications such as *Melody Maker* include advertisements which offer substantial reductions on recommended prices in this increasingly competitive field.

One thing is certain - that given the resources to obtain equipment and the understanding, the inclusion of synthesizers in schools is an undeniable way of stimulating and encouraging an interest in music of all kinds.

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Post A: Faculty of ART and MUSIC.
Post B: Faculty of EDUCATION.
Post C: Faculty of HOME ECONOMICS, SCIENCE and HUMANITIES.

Further details may be obtained from the Director of Higher Education, Newton Park, Aveon 88 9N, to whom applications (no salary) should be returned by 2nd March 1984. (50555) 400018

Other Appointments

CHESTER

CHESTER COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION
LECTURER IN SENIOR LECTURE IN LANGUAGE AND READING

Applications are invited for the above post available from 1st September 1984. Further details may be obtained from the Director of Higher Education, Newton Park, Aveon 88 9N, to whom applications (no salary) should be returned by 2nd March 1984. (50555) 400018

ST HUGH'S COLLEGE OXFORD

SCHOOLTEACHER STUDENTSHIP

The College invites applications for a Schoolteacher Studentship for Hilary or preferably Trinity Term 1985.

Particulars may be obtained from the College Secretary.

Closing date for applications: Saturday 10th March 1984

(2815)

THE BIOCHEMICAL SOCIETY SCHOOLTEACHER FELLOWSHIPS

In order to give school teachers an opportunity to take part in research and to update their knowledge of Biochemistry, the Biochemical Society is sponsoring a number of Fellowships tenable in University Biochemistry departments in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

The awards will be for one term (three months) and will include a stipend of £500 plus an allowance of up to £500 for travel and other expenses incurred during tenure of the fellowship. In addition, a contribution of £500 towards the cost of research will be paid to the host department.

Applications should be sent to the Executive Secretary, The Biochemical Society, 7, Warwick Court, London WC1R 5DP. There is no appeal form, but in addition to personal particulars and a brief curriculum vitae applicants should include an outline of the work they wish to carry out, the dates of the proposed attachment, and a letter of support from the head of the host department. The closing date for receipt of applications for terms in the 1984/5 session will be 15 May 1984.

Adult Education

LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

An Equal Opportunity Employer

LEICESTERSHIRE COLLEGE OF ADULT EDUCATION

Wellington Street, Leicester

FULL-TIME TEACHER OF POTTERY required from 1st September 1984, to take responsibility for the pottery and administration, with the assistance of part-time teachers, day and evening courses for adults.

Applicants must be qualified teachers. Successful candidates will have experience in Adult Education pottery courses essential.

SALARY: £9,544 - £9,753 p.a.
Application forms and further particulars from the Principal at the College, to whom they should be returned within two weeks of the appearance of this advertisement. (50555) 380000

Youth and Community Service

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ST. PHILIPS C.C. (AIDED) COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL, Cambridge

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER Applications are invited from experienced and suitably qualified applicants for this important new post in a purpose-built community school with effect from 1st July 1984. Salary £9,544 - £9,753 p.a. The person appointed will be responsible for the development of the school for the development and promotion of community activities within the area and the day to day management of the school within the school. The post calls for a man or woman with energy, drive and initiative. Application forms and details from Senior Area Education Officer, Gloucester Street, Cambridge CB2 3PA (a.c.o. please). (54305) 440000

CARDIFF

YOUTH AND COMMUNITY WORKER Applications are invited for the post of Youth and Community Worker based at the Cardiff V.M.C.A. This is an exciting new post offering opportunity for use of initiative and creativity. Closing date for applications 25th February 1984. (54445) 440000

HERTFORDSHIRE

ST. ALBANS COLLEGE

Youth & Community Service

Applications are invited for two newly created posts:

POST 1 JNC Range 3, £2,640 p.a. Suitable for a person interested in working in a multi-cultural environment, in particular with the experience of immigrants, including student workers.

POST 2 JNC Range 3, £2,640 p.a. Suitable for a person interested in working in a multi-cultural environment, in particular with the experience of immigrants, including student workers.

Further particulars and application forms are available from the Senior Area Education Officer, Gloucester Street, Cambridge CB2 3PA (a.c.o. please). (54305) 440000

HERTFORDSHIRE

YOUTH AND COMMUNITY WORKERS

JNC Range 3D £2,178 - £2,138 (Leitchworth)
JNC Range 3A £7,485 - £2,415 (Hitchin)

Two new posts to assist in meeting the needs and disadvantages of the Afro-Caribbean community in North Leitchworth with the Asian community. Knowledge of the local area essential.

One post in Hitchin with the Afro-Caribbean community. Knowledge of the local area essential.

Applicants should have a knowledge of either Afro-Caribbean or Asian culture and proven experience in working with young people or the black community.

Full details and application forms (stating which post) from the Department of Youth and Community Services, North Leitchworth College, Cambridge CB2 3PA (a.c.o. please). (54305) 440000

Closing date: two weeks from the appearance of this advertisement. (54305) 440000

HERTFORDSHIRE

CASSIO COLLEGE

Langley, Herts

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Closing date: two weeks from the appearance of this advertisement. (54305) 440000

HOUSLOW

CRANFORD COMMUNITY SCHOOL Applications are invited for the post of Head of School. The school is a large primary school with a wide range of facilities. The post is a full-time position with a salary of £12,519 - £15,744 p.a. Further details and application forms from the Head of School, Cranford Community School, Cranford, Herts. (54445) 440000

HERTFORDSHIRE

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Youth & Community Service

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Closing date: two weeks from the appearance of this advertisement. (54305) 440000

LONDON

ASSOCIATION FOR JEWISH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING (vacancy due to post incumbent taking up a local authority appointment). £9,500 to £11,000 p.a. The Association is a voluntary organisation which provides training and development for Jewish community workers. The post is a full-time position with a salary of £9,500 to £11,000 p.a. Further details and application forms from the Association for Jewish Community Development & Training, 1st Floor, 100, Strand, London WC2R 0JF. (54445) 440000

NORTH TYNESIDE

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF NORTH TYNESIDE

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Applications are invited from qualified and suitably experienced persons for the following posts:

1. ASSISTANT YOUTH LEADER AND COMMUNITY WORKER The person appointed will be based at the Collingwood Youth and Community Centre, North Shields, where there are purpose-built facilities for the social education of young people and the development of voluntary work in the immediate area. The post is a full-time position with a salary of £9,500 to £11,000 p.a. Further details and application forms from the Education Department, North Tyneside, 1st Floor, 100, Strand, London WC2R 0JF. (54445) 440000

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NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

COUNTY COUNCIL Leisure Services/Youth and Community Development (Vacancy due to post incumbent taking up a local authority appointment). £9,500 to £11,000 p.a. The Council is a voluntary organisation which provides training and development for Jewish community workers. The post is a full-time position with a salary of £9,500 to £11,000 p.a. Further details and application forms from the Association for Jewish Community Development & Training, 1st Floor, 100, Strand, London WC2R 0JF. (54445) 440000

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The Continental School

Jeddah - Saudi Arabia

Headmaster: T. A. Williams, MA, FRGS

This leading co-educational school caters to children of more than 40 nationalities in very well-equipped premises. Teaching is to Common Entrance and G.C.E. Levels, and standards of work and behaviour are high. There are presently 1,250 pupils and steady expansion is envisaged.

The following staff are required:

Bursar: Senior management post, with responsibility for financial aspects, campus maintenance, vehicle fleet and new building programme. Accounting background desirable, with computer familiarity (NCR and IBM). Previous experience abroad required, preferably Middle East. Single or married status (teaching post available for wife). Salary c. £20,000 p.a. tax free.

Senior School: Head of Boys' P.E. Age range 11-17. Able to teach Maths to 'O' Level. P.E. work is game-oriented and includes basketball, volleyball, football, swimming and gymnastics. Salary range £14,000-£16,000 p.a. tax free.

Junior School: P.E. Teacher. Age range 7-11. To teach all P.E. and games to boys and girls. An interest in drama and music/movement will be advantageous. Salary range: £12,000-£14,000 p.a. tax free.

Candidates for the 2 teaching posts should combine strong enthusiasm with a minimum of 3 years experience. Ideally, single men are sought; but married men with teaching wives are welcome to apply.

Conditions of Service. One year contracts, renewable. Annual return fares, free accommodation, travel allowances, interest-free car loan. Resettlement gratuity. Interviews early April.

For further details and application forms, please contact Miss T. Aldine, Gabbittas-Thring Services Ltd., Broughton House, 6, 7 & 8 Sackville Street, Piccadilly, London W1X 2BR. Tel: 01-734 0181.

(2880)

Gabbittas-Thring

JEBEL ALI SCHOOL (UAE)

The Governors have instructed Professional, Advisory and Consultative Educational Services to recruit a

HEAD TEACHER

for Sept. 1984. The school is situated 30 km from Dubai and provides educational facilities for European families connected with the port. There are currently 90 children aged 4½ - 11 years in 6 classes.

The successful candidate, preferably with a teaching wife, will be a man of vision, with considerable educational achievement. He will be between 30 - 45 years and already be a Head Teacher (or a Deputy of a large school) and be fully conversant with current UK primary school thinking. The school is administered by a Board of Governors nominated by the companies with children attending the school.

The commanding salary is in the region of £16,000 p.a. tax free, with accommodation, transport and return economy air fare to the UK once per year. Gratuities are also payable.

PACES registered teachers considered automatically. Applicants are invited to submit (in duplicate) copies of their C.V.'s together with details of their spouse, two recent photographs, names and addresses of 2 referees and a letter of application to PACES Dept N, 60 Eccleston Gardens, St Helena WA10 2BW.

Closing date 9th March 1984.

Long listed candidates will be invited to complete further application forms and will also be furnished with further details of the post. Applications will not be acknowledged and candidates not hearing within 6 weeks of the closing date can assume they have been unsuccessful.

(2844)

TEACHER REQUIRED IN SWEDEN

The International section of the boarding-school of Sigtuna, Sweden, requires teacher for mid August 1984, to teach the International Baccalaureate programme (equivalent to A-Level standard) to 6th form (11th, 12th grades) students.

We require a teacher of mathematics and chemistry and/or physics.

Applicants with experience in computing would be most welcome. Qualifications: Candidates should be highly qualified teachers with a minimum of five years experience in secondary education. Teacher training required.

Salary and benefits: Salary according to qualifications and experience (minimum GBP 8,000 per annum). Two months leave in the summer. Annual passage paid. Leave. Furnished accommodation provided. Initial contract can be for one or two years.

For further information, please contact Mrs Monica Flodman, Director of the International Section, Sigtuna, Sweden. Closing date for applications: 12th March, 1984.

Applicants should send up-to-date curriculum vitae, plus two letters of recommendation and a photograph to the Headmaster, Sigtuna International Boarding School, Box 9, S-169 00 Sigtuna, Sweden. Tel: 080501 35.

(2877)

OVERSEAS CONT

THE BRITISH SCHOOL IN THE NETHERLANDS (HMC, GBA, Independent)

requires, for September 1984, in the Senior School (570+ boys and girls, aged 11-18, 'O' and 'A' Level courses (Oxford and Cambridge and London (Home) Boards are well established) well qualified teachers, with two or three years' current experience, of

English and Drama Computer Studies, to introduce and develop this new curriculum subject Shortland and Typing.

Applicants should state their second subject capability. A commitment to the pastoral welfare of pupils and a willingness to take an active part in games and/or extra-curricular activities will be valuable additional qualifications.

Applicants should write by 27th February, enclosing a full curriculum vitae, a recent photograph and the names, addresses and telephone numbers of two referees to:

The Headmaster
The British School in the Netherlands
Jan van Hooftlaan 3
2252 BQ Voorsticht
The Netherlands

and they should provide a contact telephone number. A telephone enquiry (between 0800 and 1430 GMT) may be made on 010-31 1717 7163. Short-listed candidates will be interviewed in the United Kingdom in the week beginning 19 March and the appointments will be made in the first week of April.

(2883)

JUMEIRAH ENGLISH SPEAKING SCHOOL DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Required from September, 1984

ASSISTANT TEACHERS

(Infant and Junior)

The school was established in September, 1975, and has a roll of 500 children between the ages of 4.05 and 11.00 years, who are mainly the children of British and European expatriates.

The school buildings consist of three separate units, comprising a total of twenty-one classrooms. The classrooms are spacious, purpose-built and structured to the needs and aims of modern primary education.

The sports facilities comprise a hall/gymnasium, swimming pool and two playing fields. A music block and an administration block complete the complex.

Applicants require a high personal commitment to good, modern educational practice, a wealth of professional experience and a minimum of three years' teaching experience.

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE: Salaries are tax-free; an overseas allowance, medical insurance and end of contract gratuity are offered. Rent free, furnished single unit accommodation, including free water and electricity, is provided.

Two-year contracts are offered, renewable annually thereafter. An annual return air-passage to UK and initial unaccompanied baggage allowance of 40kgs is provided.

Only single, male or female UK trained and qualified primary teachers should apply. Interviews will be held in London.

Please apply, in your own handwriting, with a full curriculum vitae, a recent photograph and the names of two referees. Miss R. Blue, The Headmistress, Jumeirah English Speaking School, PO Box 4942, Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

(2716)

The Centre for British Teachers Limited

PRE-UNIVERSITY COURSES: MALAYSIA

The Centre is recruiting 70 teachers of ENGLISH for English and study skills courses for Malaysian students who will be taking up places at Universities in English speaking countries. This new project is part of a national plan to improve the standard of English of these students and to offer social orientation to prepare them for their studies overseas. The students are aged 18+ and are highly motivated.

The Centre is well-established in Malaysia and the new teachers will be joining 68 Centre teachers completing contracts in Lower Secondary Schools. The first 30 teachers of the new project went out to Malaysia on 4 January 1984.

Contracts will start with an Orientation Course in Kuala Lumpur and will initially last for two years. Monthly salaries range from M\$2405 to M\$2705 (M\$3.5 = £1). A tax free gratuity of 4 months' salary is paid on completion of the contract. Generous family allowances and medical benefits are paid and the Centre's support service in Malaysia includes professional guidance, in-service courses, and resettlement advice when teachers finish their contracts.

Applicants, who must be free to travel to Malaysia on 1 May 1984, must have:

- a University degree
- a postgraduate Certificate in Education
- a minimum of 4 years' TEFL, or a total of 5 years' teaching experience of which at least two should be TEFL.

For further information and application form contact: The Centre for British Teachers Ltd (TM3) Quality House, Quality Court, Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1HP Tel: 01-242 2982

(2807)

THE BRITISH AMERICAN SCHOOL BARRANQUILLA COLOMBIA

Requires the following teachers for September 1984

Two infant teachers with strong background in developing reading skills.

One primary English teacher for 7/8 years old
One primary Science teacher (Nuffield) for 7/8 years old
One primary Maths teacher for 8/9 years old
One middle school English teacher for 9/14 years old

Also required as soon as possible:-

One middle school and one Science teacher for 10/15 years old
E. F. L. an advantage for all posts.

Suitably qualified teachers should apply in writing as soon as possible enclosing C. V., recent photograph, names of referees and giving a telephone number to:-

Mr I. C. Turton,
18A, Bainmore Lane,
LYMINGTON,
Hants. SO4 9HL.

Interviews by the Headmaster in London in early March.

(2811) (Nuffield) (A. E. H.)

Teaching in the Third World is an education in itself.

Education is a high priority in developing countries.

Teachers of English Language, Maths and Science, teachers in vocational subjects such as Commerce and Home Economics, Technical teachers in Woodwork and Metalwork and specialist teachers of the handicapped are urgently needed.

As a VSO volunteer you can make a genuinely worthwhile contribution to a developing country's education system through work in a secondary school, pre-service or in-service teacher training or higher education.

And your satisfaction will lie not so much in your own achievements, as in how much you help others to help themselves.

Candidates should be mature in attitude, aged between 20 and 65, without dependants and willing to spend two years overseas on a small allowance based on local rates of pay.

For full information, complete the coupon below. You could help a country towards self-reliance.

I am interested in volunteering. Please send me details.

My qualifications/experience are:-

Name

Address

To Enquiries Unit, Voluntary Service Overseas,

9 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PW

(SAE appreciated)

Charity No. 313757



TRACIM 4 OPENINGS IN TURKEY

Three English Language Secondary Schools (College Preparatory) in Turkey announce the following openings:

UNIVERSITY SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

• English Language and Physics or Chemistry

• English Language and Literature

• English Language and Drama/Technical Theatre

• English Language and Mathematics

• English Language and History

• English Language and Art

• English Language and Music

• English Language and Physical Education

• English Language and Religious Education

• English Language and Modern Languages

• English Language and Social Studies

• English Language and Health Education

• English Language and Environmental Studies

• English Language and Information Technology

• English Language and Design

• English Language and Computing

• English Language and Business Studies

• English Language and Law

• English Language and Politics

• English Language and Economics

• English Language and Geography

• English Language and History

• English Language and Literature

• English Language and Drama/Technical Theatre

• English Language and Mathematics

• English Language and Physics or Chemistry

• English Language and Biology

• English Language and Health Education

• English Language and Environmental Studies

• English Language and Information Technology

• English Language and Design

• English Language and Computing

• English Language and Business Studies

• English Language and Law

• English Language and Politics

• English Language and Economics

• English Language and Geography

• English Language and History

• English Language and Literature

• English Language and Drama/Technical Theatre

• English Language and Mathematics

• English Language and Physics or Chemistry

• English Language and Biology

• English Language and Health Education

• English Language and Environmental Studies

• English Language and Information Technology

• English Language and Design

• English Language and Computing

• English Language and Business Studies

• English Language and Law

• English Language and Politics

• English Language and Economics

• English Language and Geography

ROME

ST. GEORGE'S ENGLISH SCHOOL

HMC/GBA Independent Co-educational School
840 pupils of 65 nationalities, ages 5-18

Seeks for September 1984

a fully-qualified

DEPUTY HEAD

with Curriculum responsibilities

To take charge, throughout the age-range, of planning, coordination and continuous development of the school's curriculum and teaching methods, assessment policy and diagnostic procedures.

The person appointed must bring considerable expertise in curriculum development, to the post, should ideally be experienced in both primary and secondary schools (some teaching periods would be expected in each of the two departments) and must be capable of deputising for the Headmaster at any time. Candidates may offer any standard teaching subject.

Salary on the St. George's scale, generally above Burnham. Letters of application (Express/Swiftair recommended) to The Headmaster, St. George's English School, Via Cassia, Km. 16, 00128 Roma, Italy to arrive by 16th March 1984. Enclose full C.V., telephone numbers and names, addresses and telephone numbers of three referees. Initial interviews in Britain at the end of March.

(2822)

GULF ENGLISH SCHOOL

Kuwait

Continued growth will create in 1984-1985 school year eight Primary and four Secondary vacancies.

Single teachers and married teaching couples without children are invited to apply for the following positions.

Primary Department:

Kindergarten 3½-4½
Infants 4½-7½
Juniors 7½-11½

Applications are also invited from Primary Music and Remedial specialists.

Secondary Department:
Graduate specialists for combinations of the following subjects: History, Mathematics and Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Physics, English and Geography.

Conditions:
Contracts are for two years renewable; tax free salary, free furnished air, conditioned accommodation and portage, baggage allowances, no absence bonus, annual gratuity and economy flights London/Kuwait at the beginning and end of each contractual year.

Brief C.V. and recent photograph to Mrs. S. Jalani (Director Gulf English School), The Ivory House, Flat 2, St Catherine by the Tower, LONDON E1 6AT.

For further details and application form, please write to:

Ms. Irene Fitzmaurice, Headmistress

Ms. A. Shamoun, English Speaking School

P.O. Box 978

Ras Al Khaimah (UAE)

Tel: 01-488 2400

Senior Biology Teacher

Bermuda

The Bermuda High School for Girls, an independent fee-paying school with 600 pupils aged from 5-18 years, wishes to appoint a Senior Biology Teacher.

You should hold an honours degree in Biology as the post involves responsibility for the subject throughout the senior school including GCE 'O' level and AP examinations. An emphasis on practical work and a strong chemistry background are essential.

The appointment, initially for 3 years, carries a salary on a scale from £1,000-£2,000 (Bermuda Dollars equivalent to £14,700-£29,400 approx). Bermuda enjoys a superb climate and offers exceptional facilities for sports and outdoor pursuits.

Please write, with details of qualifications and experience and the names of two professional referees, to Richard Williams, PER Overseas, 40 Grosvenor Place, London SW1X 7BL. Tel: 01-235 5885.

